PEAK

art 임강희
story 홍성수

PEAK

art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

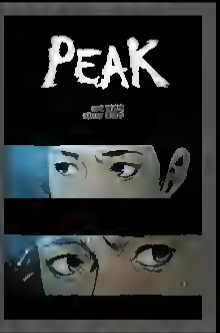
~~4.20~~ NOW!

climb on!

LEZHIN

PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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Credits

Translator: Xephia
Proofreader: Anima
Editor: Anima
QC: Claudia

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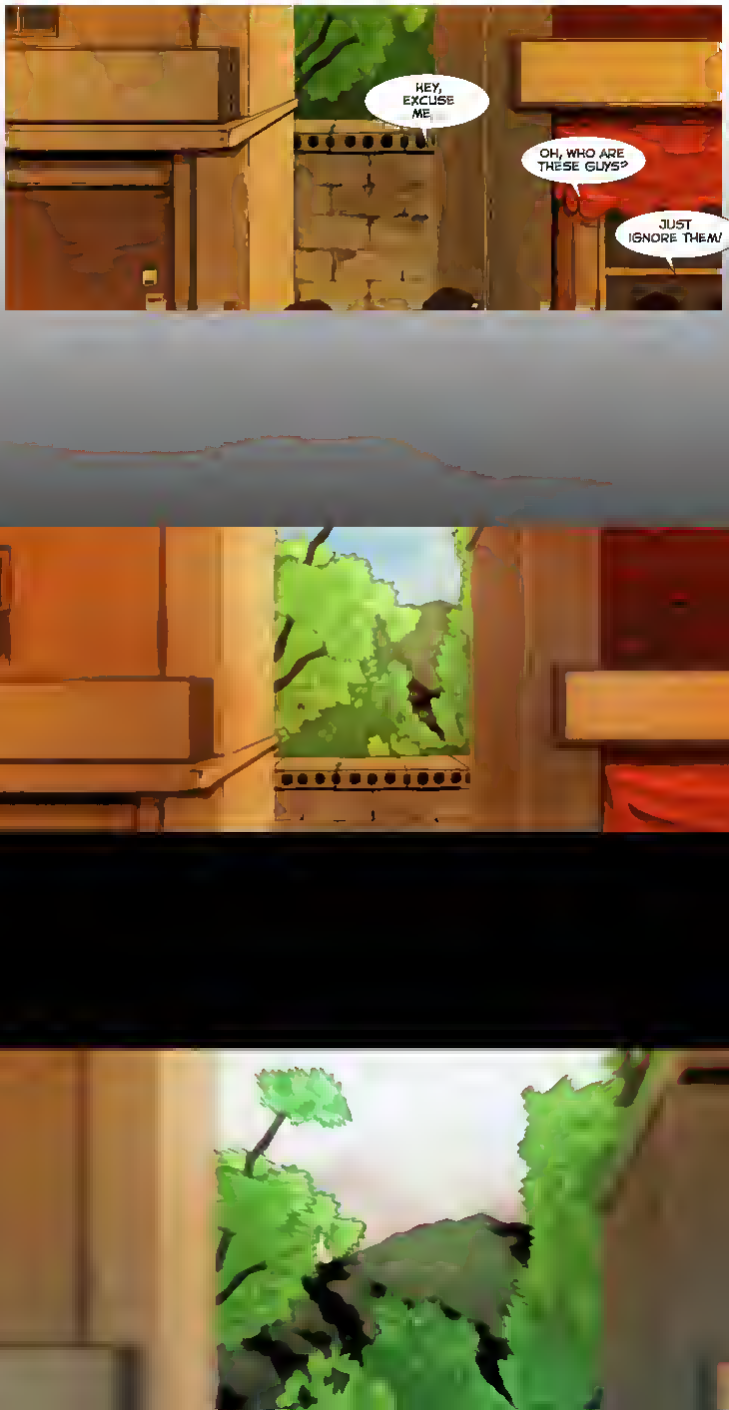
APRIL 1983 -
SUYU-DONG, SEOUL

IT'S NEXT WEDNESDAY, RIGHT? THE SCHOOL TRIP.
YEAH. WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO WEAR?
A MINI?
ARE YOU CRAZY?
PROBABLY NOT, HUH?
NO, FORGET IT...


HEY, EXCUSE ME...
OH, WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
JUST IGNORE THEM!

WHOOOOOSH

FWOOSH

WAKE UP! YOU SHOULDN'T DRIFT OFF...!
Uh... Mmm...
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK DOWN... I'VE GOT TO GET BACK DOWN...
TRUMBLL
TRUMBLL
Wuhh...
...HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING...?
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK DOWN... WE'LL ALL DIE HERE...

I... I'M GOING BACK DOWN...
?!

ARE YOU *NUTS*? THE ROPE'S TOO SHORT!
AND WITH THESE CONDITIONS, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE PITONS, LET ALONE DESCEND!
THIS WHOLE ROCK'S FROZEN SOLID!!!

SHUT UP! WE STAY HERE AND WE'LL ALL DIE! I'M GOING BACK DOWN!
I'M GOING BACK DOWN
NO, CHEOL-GYU!
GO DOWN NOW, AND YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!!

NO, YOU BASTARD...!
COME BACK! DON'T GO...!
CHEOL-GYU... DON'T GO...
.....
TWANG
TWANG
TWANG
TWANG

Wuuaa...
Aaah...
KUAAAA-!!

KUAAAAA

AAAA!

WHOO

SHOOSH

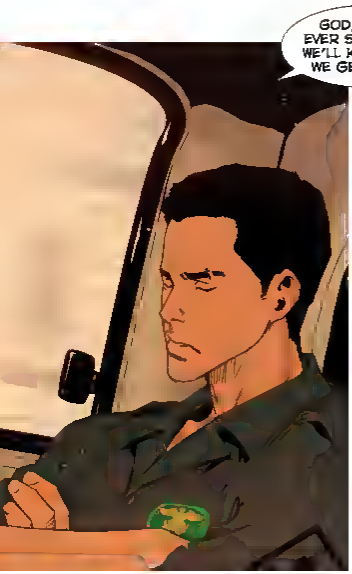
On April 3rd, 1983, 7 of the 11 members of a university mountaineering club died after they were caught in a sudden storm while climbing Insu Peak in Mt. Bukhan National Park. That same year, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency founded mountain rescue units for Mt. Bukhan and Mt. Dobong. Each rescue unit was assigned five freshly conscripted young men who met the physical fitness requirements, and who underwent rigorous training before being deployed as members of the rescue unit under an active police officer appointed to supervise them. The rescue members live on the mountain for two years, and rather than serving out their compulsory military service, work to prevent mountain accidents and to save lives. As more and more people take up mountain climbing, the number of mountain accidents has also increased. In the last 20 years, the Mt. Bukhan Mountain Police Rescue Unit has handled around 3,000 such cases.

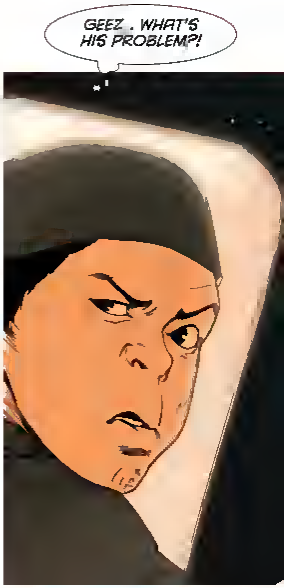
18 YEARS LATER. JULY 1998 -
SUYU-DONG, SEOUL

AH... I SO MISS IT...
ONLY NINE WEEKS AGO, I WAS WALKING DOWN THESE STREETS MYSELF...

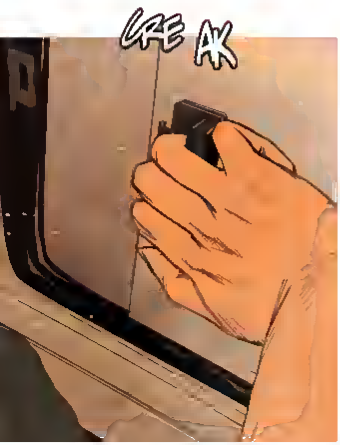
센터

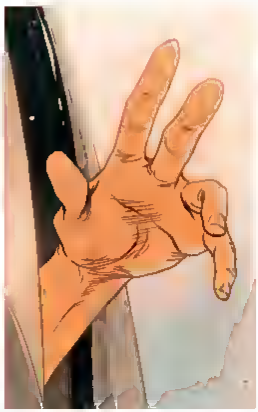
OH MAN, I'M SO CURIOUS ABOUT THE PLACE THAT IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS...!
WE REALLY GONNA BE SAVING PEOPLE AND STUFF?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE 119 RESCUE SERVICES? MAN, JUST WHAT IS IT....


GOD, DO YOU EVER SHUT UP...? WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE.


GEEZ . WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!

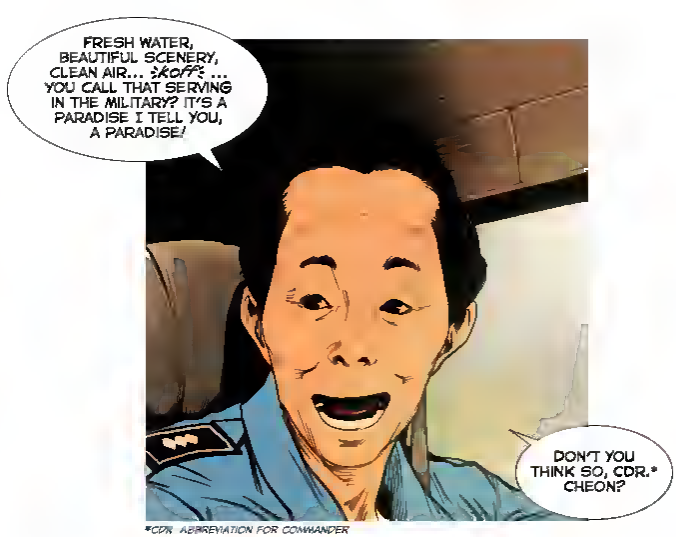
MT. BUKHAN...
BUT THAT'S A NATIONAL PARK.
MOUNTAIN POLICE RESCUE, Huh...?


CRE AK



.....

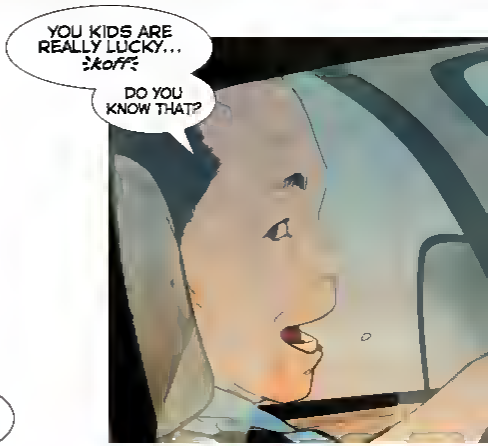
THEY REALLY ARE A LUCKY BUNCH—*kof*!

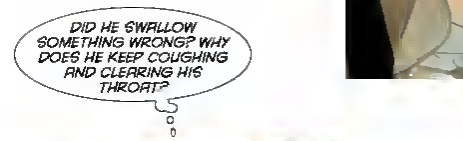

FRESH WATER, BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, CLEAN AIR... SCOFF! ... YOU CALL THAT SERVING IN THE MILITARY? IT'S A PARADISE I TELL YOU, A PARADISE!
DON'T YOU THINK SO, CDR.* CHEON?

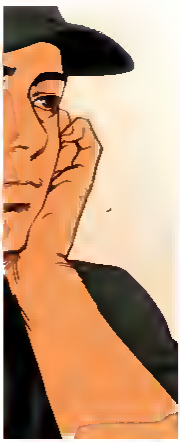
*CDR. ABBREVIATION FOR COMMANDER

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER
CHEON SANG-NO (39 YO)
IN HIS 6TH YEAR AS A MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMANDER

Cheon is the immediate superior of Ryu Yeon-seong and his four fellow conscripts, and is also one of the two rescue commanders who serves on alternate days. He is the man who selected Yeon-seong and the others from the police academy, where they were being trained to serve as conscript policemen.

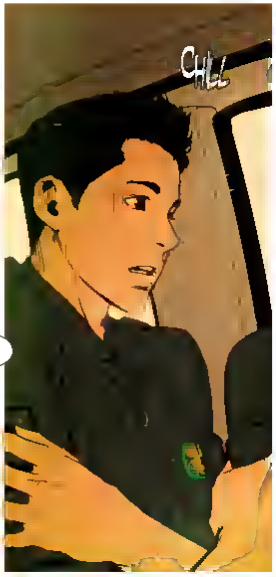




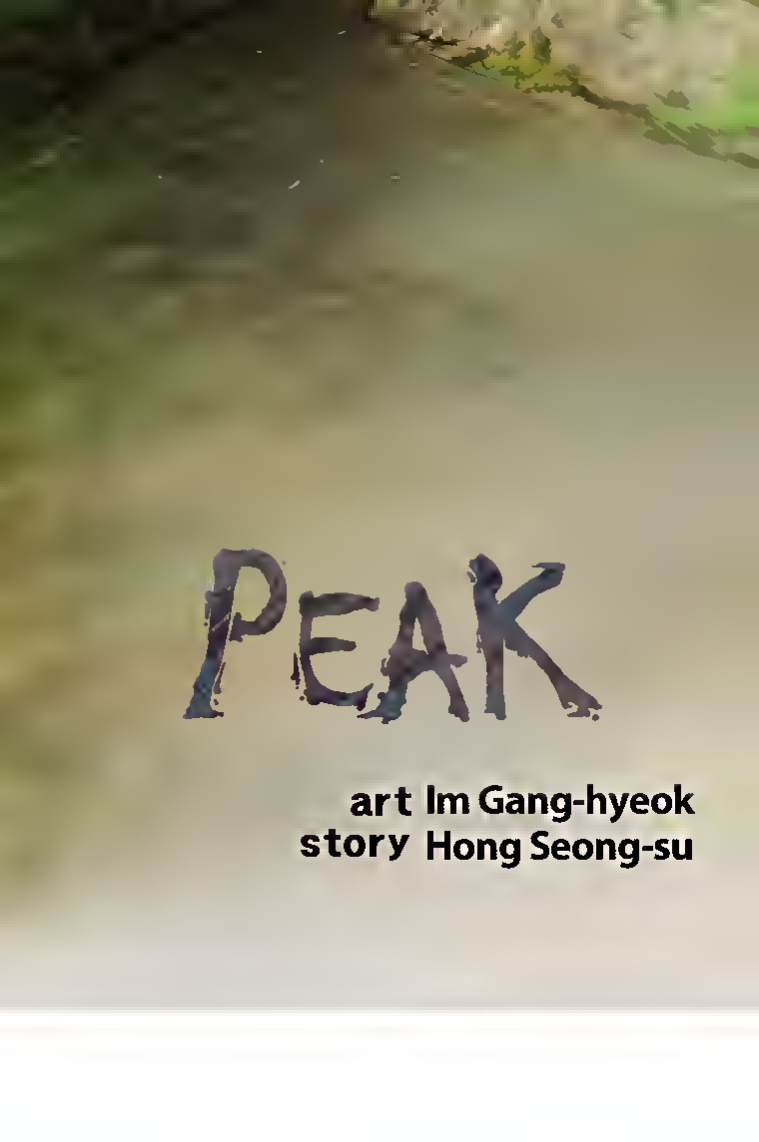


THE WIND BACK THEN WAS LIKE THIS AS WELL...
NO...
WAS IT A LITTLE WARMER...?

SWOOSH
Huh...?


CHILL
...?

BIT... IT'S COLD, COLD...
WE'RE REALLY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS. EVEN THE AIR FEELS DIFFERENT...
.....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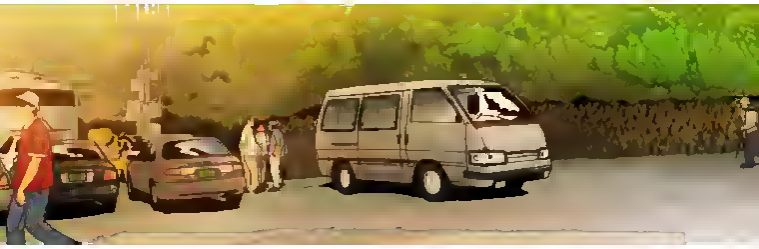
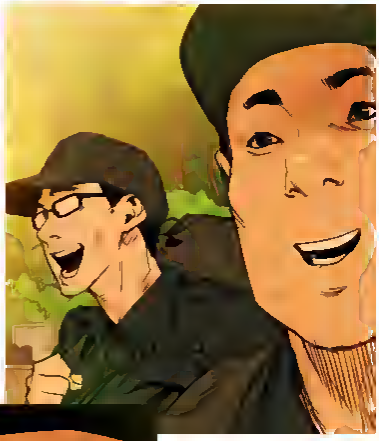
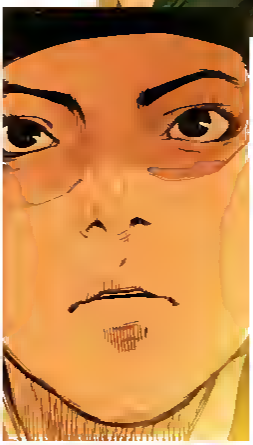


SCREECH

YOU'RE HOME, KOFFI, SO WHY AREN'T YOU ALL GETTING OFF?





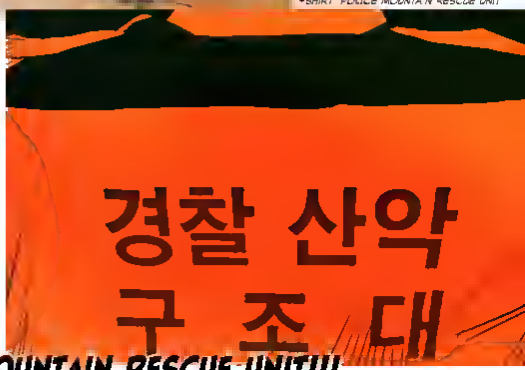
DUN
DUN

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

MT. BUKHAN NATIONAL PARK!
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO BE DOING OUR MILITARY SERVICE IN A NATIONAL PARK?
CHUNGSEONG*, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
?!
FLINCH

*CHUNGSEONG LITERALLY MEANS 'LOYALTY' AND IS ALSO THE SALUTE USED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL WHEN ADDRESSING A SUPERIOR.

*SHIRT 'POLICE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT'



POLICE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT!!!

Unlike when it came up the mountain,
the van went down in a flash.

TAKE YOUR TIME BRINGING THEM UP...
YES, COMMANDER. PLEASE WAIT FOR US UP THERE.
.....

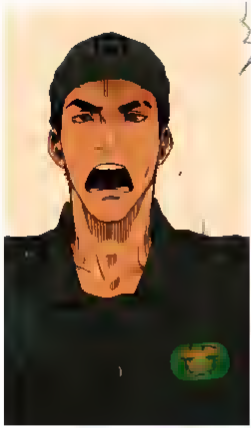
*ENLIST-MATES: CONSCRIPTS WHO JOINED THE MILITARY AT AROUND THE SAME TIME
**SERIAL NUMBER: THE MILITARY SERIAL NUMBER (SN)

Ryu Yeon-seong (21 yo)
Rescue Member #1 (by SN)
Enlist Date 1998 S 14
Height: 180 cm
Weight 67 kg

*CST CONSTABLE

YOU'RE NO. 2?

CST. IM BAE-HO!



Im Bae-ho (21 yo)

Rescue Member #2 (by SN)
Enlist Date: 1998.5.14
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 72 kg

YOU'RE NO. 3.

CST. GO HAK-MUN!

Go Hak-mun (22 yo)

Rescue Member #3 (by SN)
Enlist Date. 1998.5.14
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 65 kg

NO. 4.

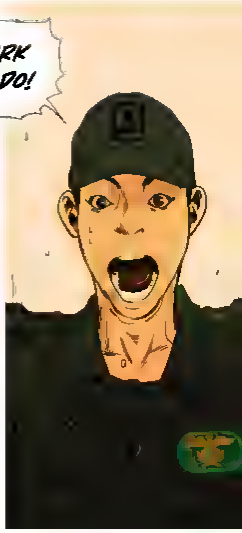
CST. NAM GI-JUNG!

Nam Gi-jung (22 yo)

Rescue Member #4 (by SN)
Enlist Date: 1998.5.14
Height: 179 cm
Weight: 88 kg

THE LAST, NO. 5.

CST. PARK GWANG-DO!



Park Gwang-do (21 yo)

Rescue Member #5 (by SN)
Enlist Date: 1998.5.14
Height: 174 cm
Weight: 57 kg

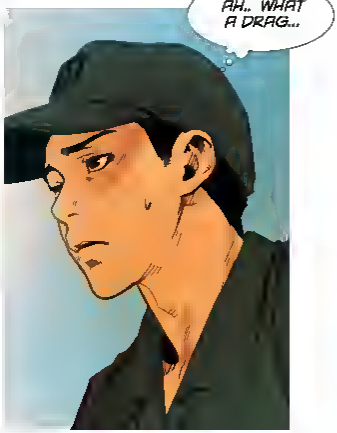
From now on, you're to answer with your "number and name".

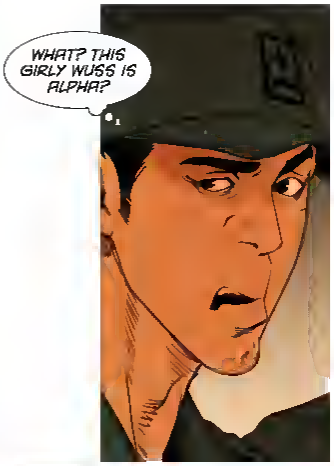
"Number X! Blah, Blah!"

GOT THAT?

YES, SIR!
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!!!
Quiet, quiet! This is a public plaza here, so keep your voices down.
Hmm, now then...
YOU'LL BE THE RESCUE UNIT'S ALPHA FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, YEON-SEONG.
GR
AB

HUH?!
THE RESCUE UNIT'S ALPHA?
IT MEANS YOU'RE THE LEADER. A RESCUE UNIT NEEDS A PIVOT THAT OTHER MEMBERS CAN RELY ON.
YOU MAY HAVE ALL ENLISTED AROUND THE SAME TIME, BUT IT'S YOUR SERIAL NUMBER THAT MATTERS IN THE MILITARY, YOU SEE.


AH.. WHAT A DRAG...


WHAT? THIS GIRLY WUSS IS ALPHA?

HEHE. THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO GET IN THE RIGHT LINE IN THE MILITARY...
ALPHA? SOUNDS COOL, BUT I BET IT'S A LOT OF WORK...

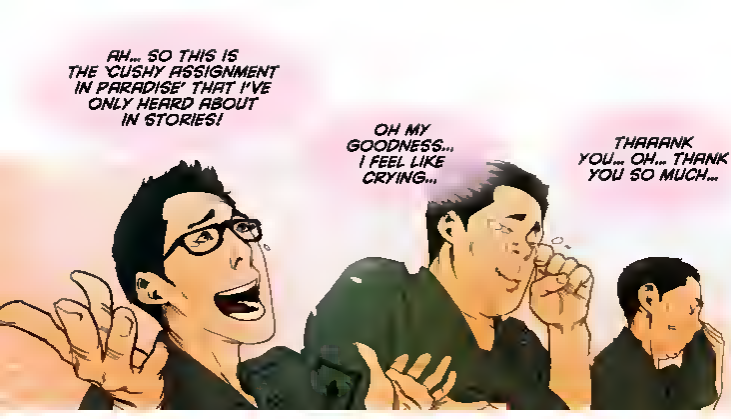
MY NAME'S KIM JU-HAN. SERGEANT, FINAL GRADE. I'LL BE DISCHARGED IN A MONTH'S TIME.
FORGET ABOUT RANK, JUST CALL ME 'SUNBAE-NIM'.*
THE UNIT HAS A TOTAL OF FIVE MEMBERS. TWO OF THEM WERE DISCHARGED YESTERDAY. .
AND YOU HAVE TWO MORE SUNBAES WAITING UP ON THE MOUNTAIN.
AND FYI, BOTH OF THEM ARE MY SENIORS .. GET MY DRIFT?

*SUNBAE IS AN HONORIFIC USED BY JUNIORS (AT SCHOOL OR WORKPLACE) TO ADDRESS THEIR SENIORS.

"in a month's time, there won't be anyone in the unit who has more seniority than you."

"You really are a lucky bunch."

LUCKY..? WHO IS?
I HOPE ALL OF YOU SUPPORT YOUR ALPHA, YEON-SEONG, AND WORK WELL AS A MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT.
HOLY SHIT..! ALL THE SENIORS WILL BE DISCHARGED IN A MONTH? REALLY?!


AH... SO THIS IS THE 'CUSHY ASSIGNMENT IN PARADISE' THAT I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT IN STORIES!
OH MY GOODNESS... I FEEL LIKE CRYING...
THAAANK YOU... OH... THANK YOU SO MUCH...

"A question... You guys...
How well do you think you know yourselves?"

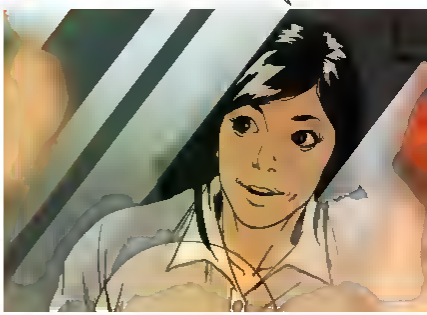
This is when you'd literally say 'it came out of the blue.'
No one could give him an answer.
And it seemed as if their sunbae never expected to hear any,
for he just turned around, and led the new recruits to the mountain.
Feeling a little troubled, Yeon-seong trudged behind his senior.

AH... HERE I COME AT LAST, THE PLACE OF MY EXILE FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS...

THE MT. BUKHAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE STATION.

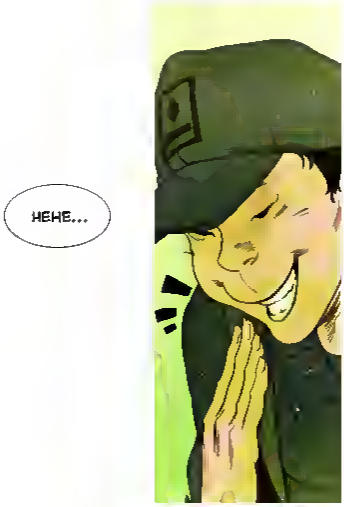
HELLO...

I GUESS THESE ARE THE NEW MEMBERS?

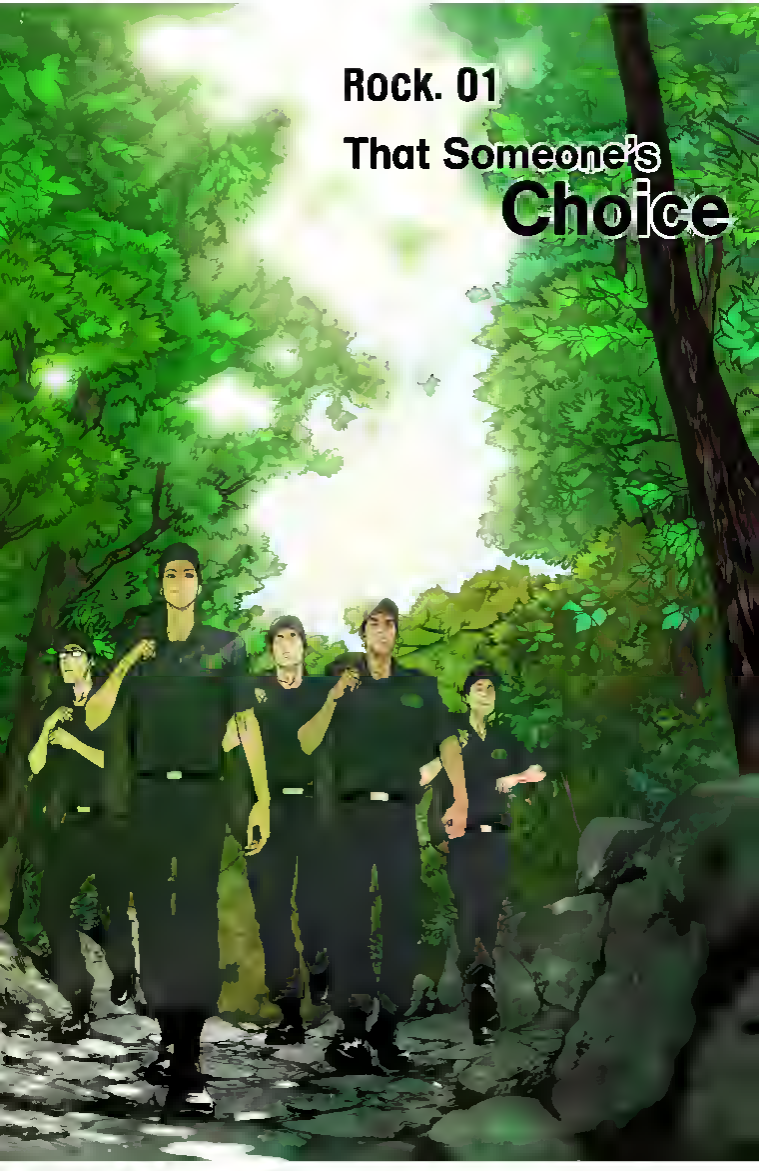


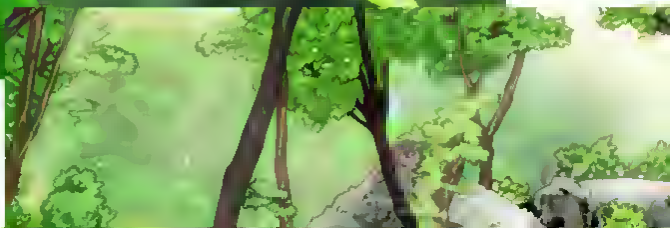
HOW DO YOU DO?
OH.. I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS..
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME...
HELLO...
NICE TO MEET YOU!
IT'S A PLEASURE...
YES, YES, I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL OFTEN. PLEASE BE ON YOUR WAY...

Hum hum
Mmm ♪
SO WHERE'S THIS STATION? WHERE COULD IT BE?
I DON'T SEE MANY CLIMBERS... MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S A WEEKDAY, Huh?
AH... IT'S SO NICE... AND QUIET...


HEHE...

IS THIS WHY PEOPLE
COME TO THE MOUNTAINS...?


Rock. 01
That Someone's
Choice



Their senior climbed on without saying a word.
Had it been about 10 minutes...? By the time their fluttering hearts, stirred and buoyed by anticipation, settled down again, there was only one question on everyone's mind... Just where was this Rescue Station?
Then, their senior finally broke his silence.

YES SIR!
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!

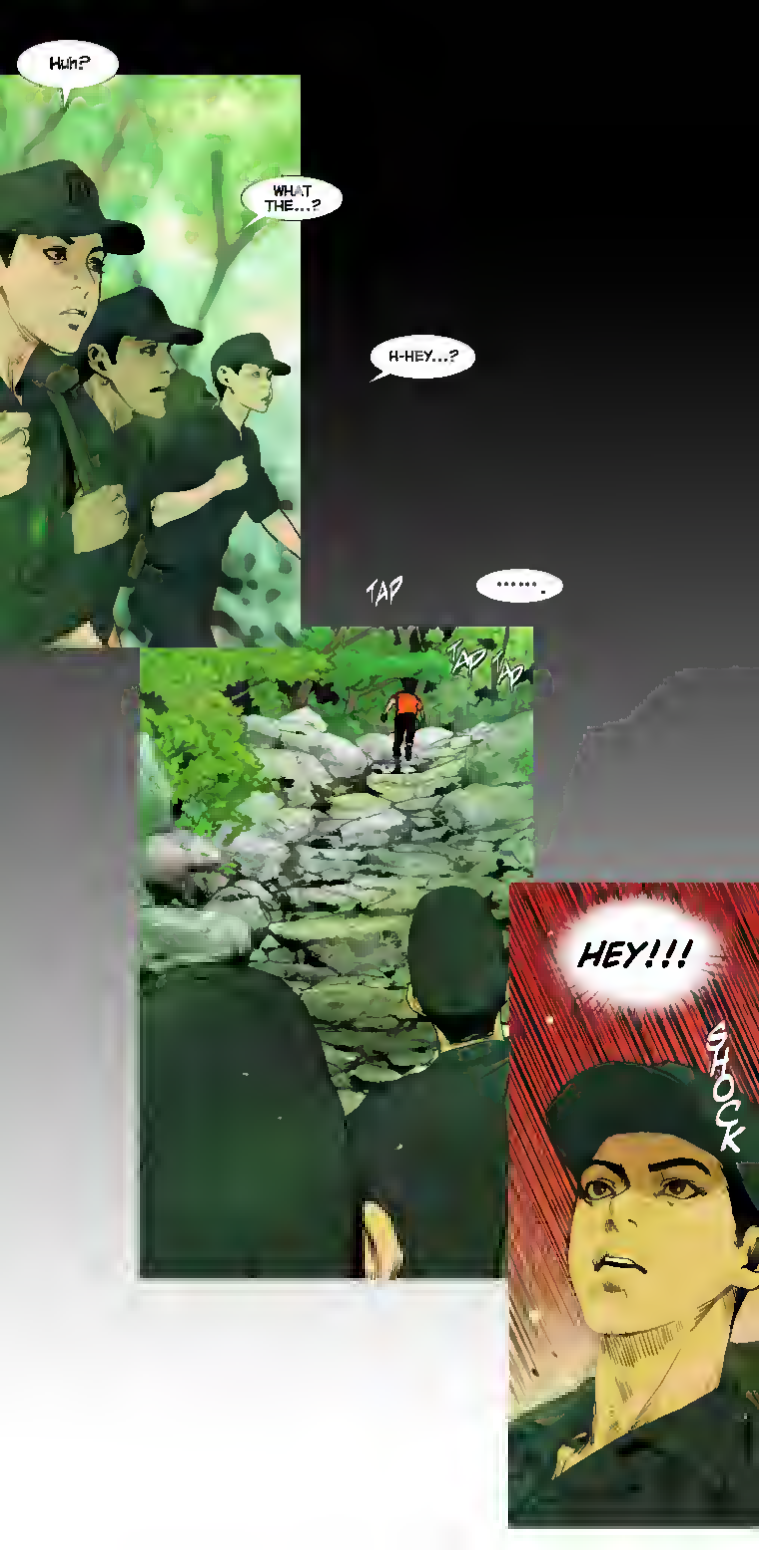
...?
Eh? WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT, GET A TATTOO OR SOMETHING?
ONE THAT SAYS 'RESCUE UNIT'
WHAT?
Huh?
RIGHT. SINCE WE'RE THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT...
WE'RE GOING TO START CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN AS RESCUE MEMBERS SHOULD.
TAP
TAP
CLIMB AS RESCUE MEMBERS?
AND WHAT'S THAT...?

"DON'T FALL BEHIND ME BY ANY MORE THAN FIVE METERS."

With a spring in his step,
their senior begins to pick up the pace.

Yeon-seong and his fellow
recruits match his speed.

However, moments later…


Huh?
WHAT THE...?
H-HEY...?
TAP
.....
TAP TAP
HEY!!!
SHOCK

"RUN!!!"

To be continued...

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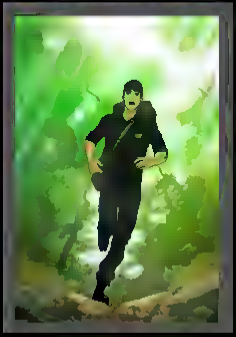
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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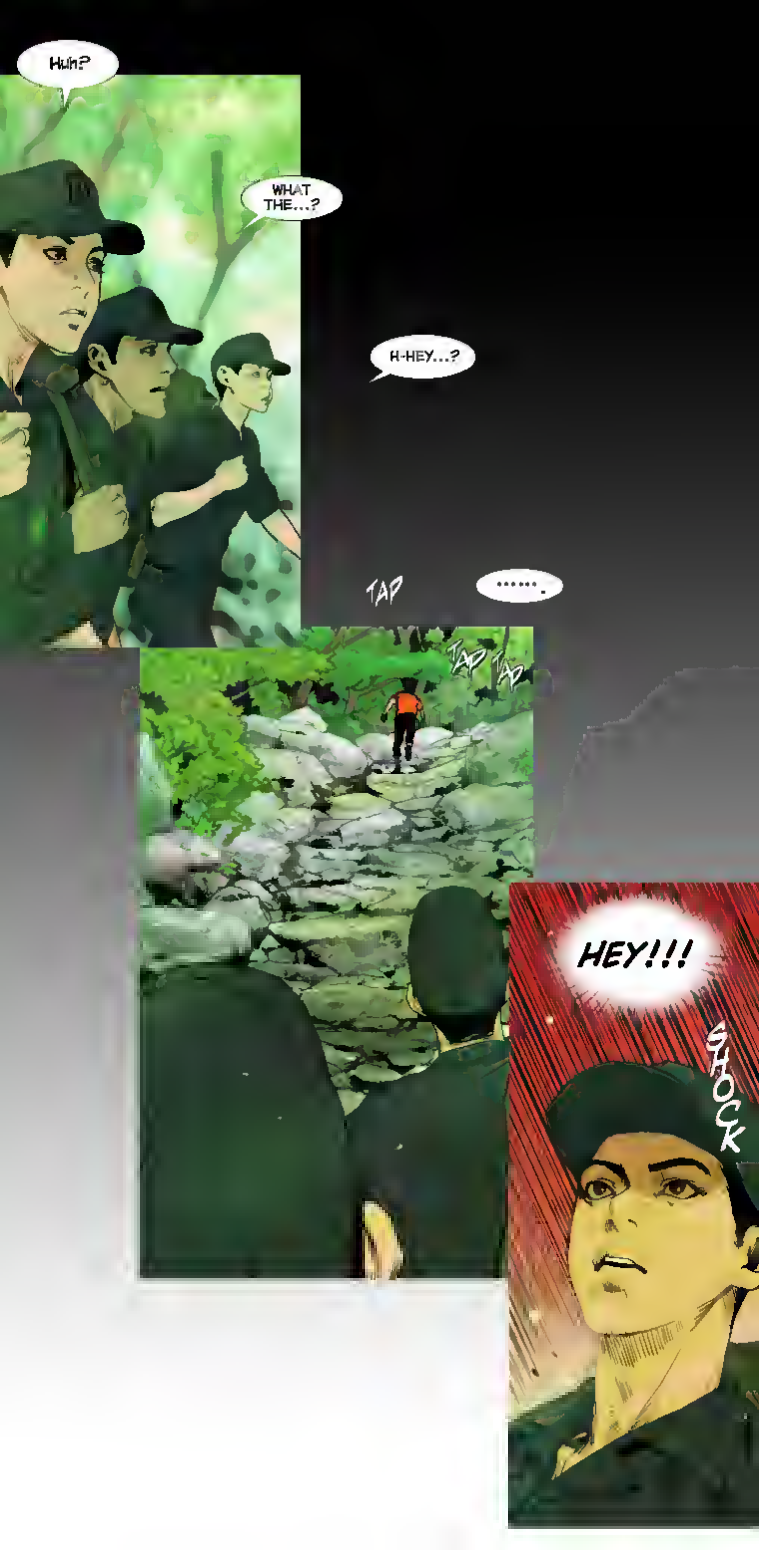
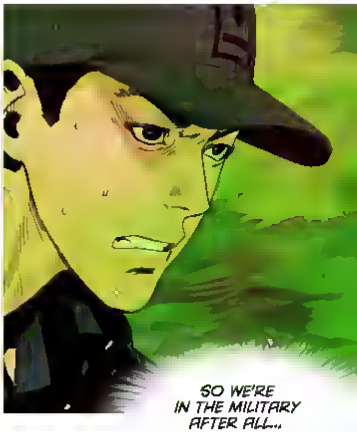

Huh?
WHAT THE...?
H-HEY...?
TAP
.....
TAP TAP
HEY!!!
SHOCK

"RUN!!!"

:Pant:
:Pant:
SHIT, WE'RE FALLING FARTHER AND FARTHER BEHIND?!
Haa
Haa

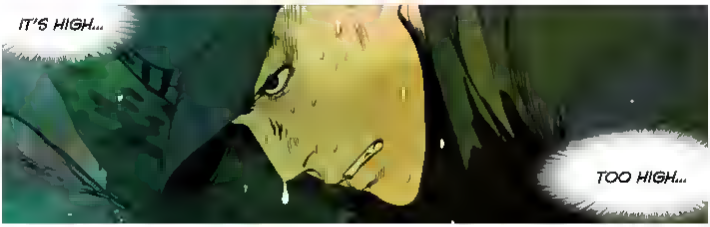


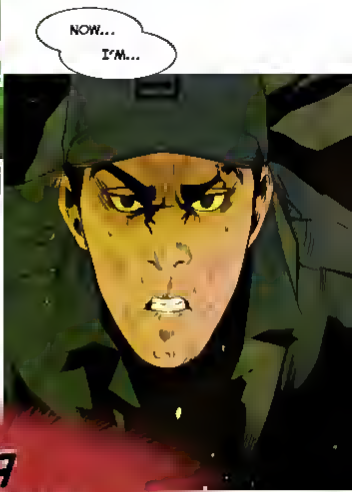
Everybody, stop where you are!!!

DID I OR DID I NOT TELL YOU NOT TO FALL MORE THAN FIVE METERS BEHIND ME?
Haa
Haa
:Huff:
IT'S SQUATS FOR YOU FROM HERE ON OUT!

WHAT?!

DAMN, HOW IS THIS CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN AS RESCUE MEMBERS?! HE'S JUST BULLYING US!
I WAS WONDERING WHAT HE WAS GETTING AT... BUT IT'S JUST COMMON HAZING AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT?!





IN A RAGE...!!!

Be the first to get here, or else!

:Pant:

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE ENLIST-MATES, YET HERE YOU ARE, PUSHING AND SHOVING EACH OTHER...
:Pant:
Haa
:Pant:
WHAT A PATHETIC BUNCH..

ALL OF YOU, DUFFEL BAGS TO YOUR MOUTHS, NOW.

Kuuu...

H-HEY?!

What is it?

CONST...! AH... NO. 5, PARK GWANG-DO...!
:HUFF:... :HUFF:...

Is this too much for you?

:HUFF:... N-NO, SIR! :HUFF:... :HUFF:...

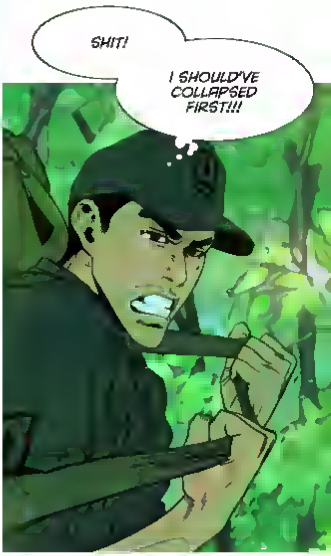
MAN, THIS WON'T DO.

…?!

……?

LET GO.

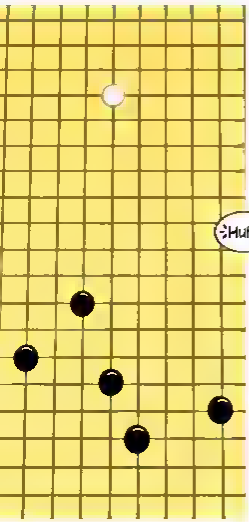
ALL OF YOU DUFFEL BAGS TO YOUR SHOULDERS!
GWANG-DO, YOU CAN COME AS YOU ARE.
?!
!!!

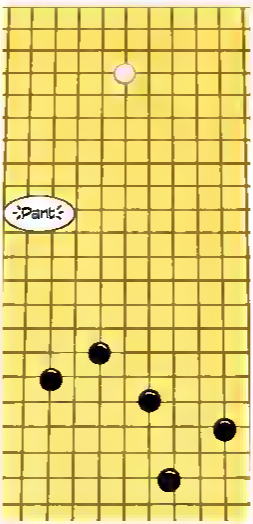

SHIT!
I SHOULD'VE COLLAPSED FIRST!!!

Here we go again!

Don't fall more than five meters behind!

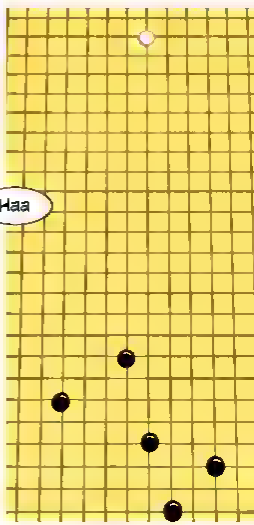
THIS TIME, HE'S CARRYING A DUFFEL BAG LIKE THE REST OF US!
Haa
Haa
I'LL CATCH UP TO HIM! I'LL DO IT!!!
:Pant:
:Huff:
Haa
Haa
NOW WE'RE ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD!
:Huff:
LUCKY...!





Haa

Haa



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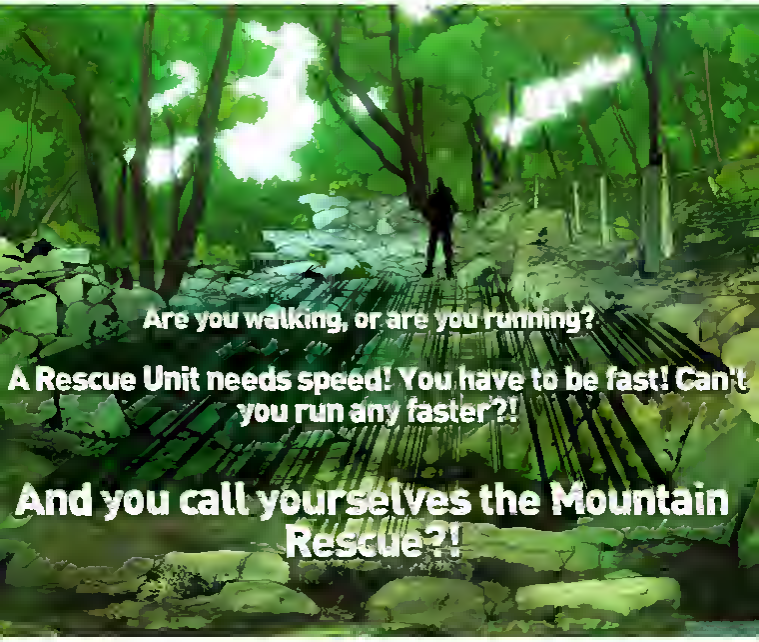

Are you walking, or are you running?
A Rescue Unit needs speed! You have to be fast! Can't you run any faster?!
And you call yourselves the Mountain Rescue?!

I CAN'T... GO ANY FARTHER... THERE ARE THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T DO.../
WHO SAID I WANTED TO JOIN THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE?! I WAS DRAGGED HERE!
Haaa
:Huff:
SO CRUEL... HE'S SO CRUEL! JUST *WHERE IS* THIS RESCUE STATION...?!

DAMN IT. SINCE WHEN DOES SOMEONE BECOME A RESCUE MEMBER JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE SAYS SO?! DON'T YOU HAVE TO TRAIN FOR MONTHS, NO, YEARS, TO BECOME ONE?!
Haa
Haa
:Huff:
Tch... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
Haa
HIS SPEED...
I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST TRAINED MY LOWER BODY TO BE AS GOOD AS ANYONE'S, BUT I...
Haa

I JUST CAN'T CATCH UP TO HIM...
.....

HUH?!

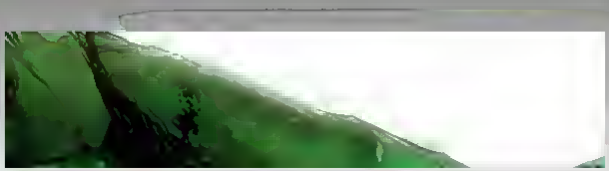
HIS STEPS...
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ROCKS HE STEPS ON...

I can see it... How he shifts his weight...!!!

PUSH OFF OF THE ROCKS DIAGONALLY...

AND ADD MY WEIGHT TO THE FORWARD MOMENTUM.

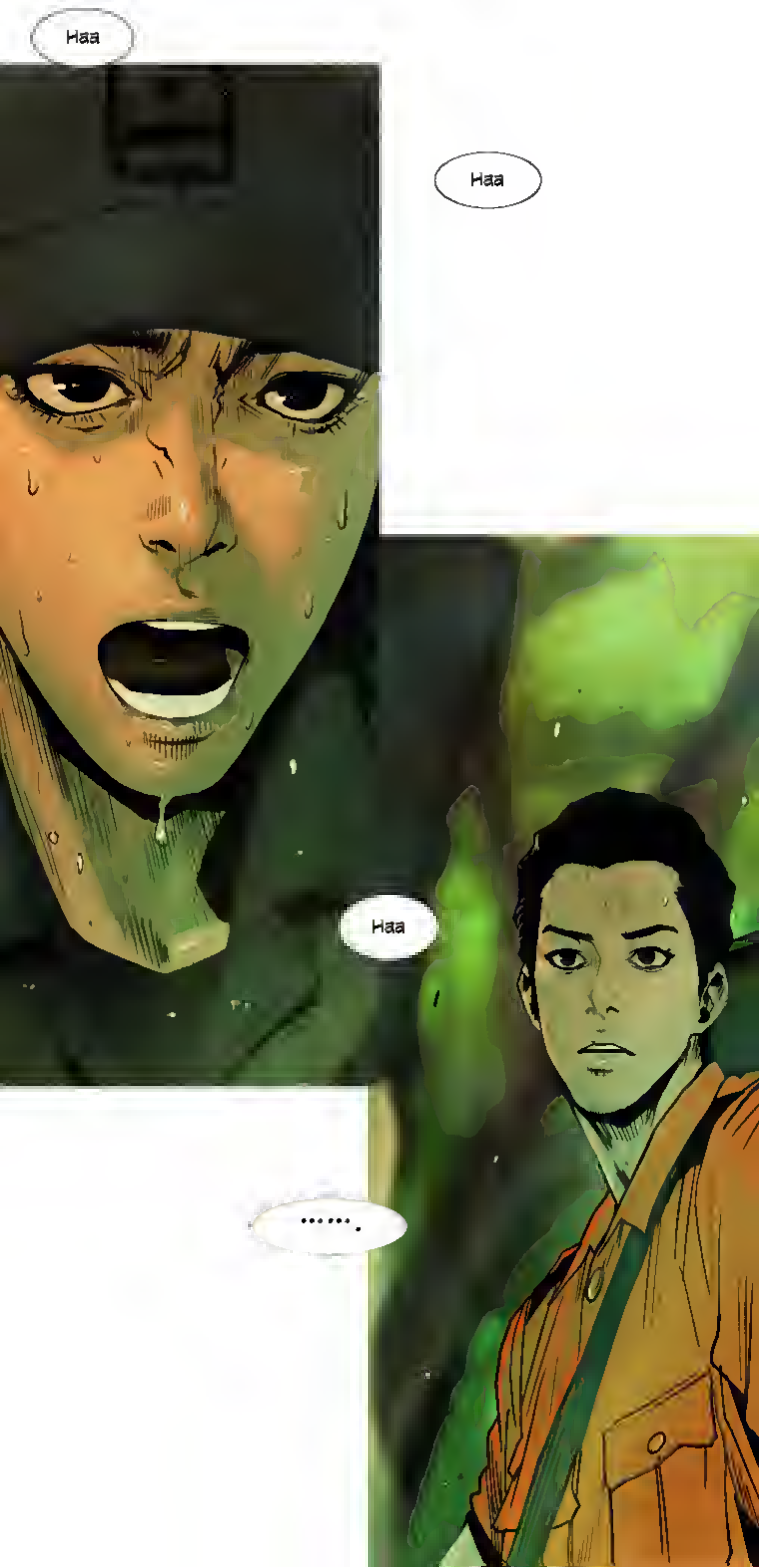
THE RHYTHM OF THESE MOVEMENTS AND STEPS...



THIS RHYTHM IS...

EXHILARATING...!!!

BY NOW, THE KIDS MUST BE...
:Huff:
:Huff:
?!


Haa
Haa
Haa
.....

OH, WHAT HAVE WE HERE..?
THIS GROUP'S PRETTY LUCKY!

PEAK

art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

To be continued...

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PEAK

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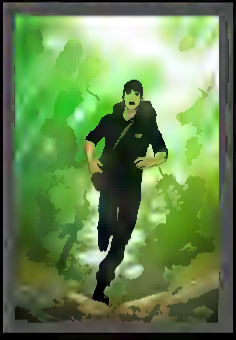

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wishing you
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy new Year!

Haa...

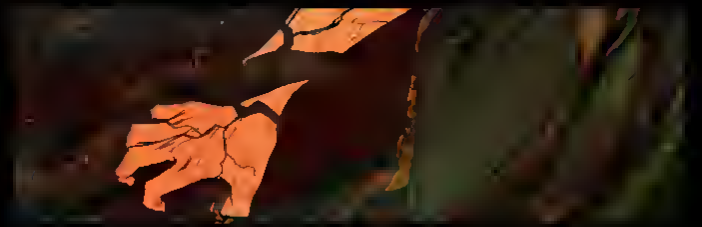
Haa...

MY RHYTHM...
IS GETTING ALL
MESSED UP...
IT
HURTS.
EVERYTHING
HURTS.

MY LUNGS SCREAMING FOR OXYGEN HURT...
MY THROAT, PARCHED AND SMELLING OF BLOOD, HURTS...
AND MY LEGS, WHICH WON'T DO WHAT MY BRAIN IS TELLING THEM TO DO, HURT.

NO MORE...

ENOUGH...
PLEASE STOP...



...MY BODY THAT'S
AT ITS LIMIT, BEGGING
FOR MERCY, HURTS.

I JUST...
CAN'T KEEP UP...
WITH HIM...

You guys...

How well do you think
you know yourselves?

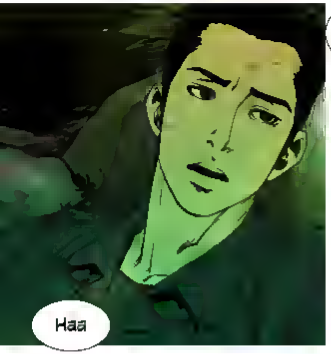
art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

Swoo...

*HARU MEANS ONE DAY IN KOREAN

Despite their wishes, they have only reached the end of 'Haru Pass*', a hill so-named because in the old days, it took a whole day to climb. From the top of Mt. Bukhan, looking down, it was perhaps just a quarter of the way up... It was neither the summit, nor was there a rescue station in sight. Dejected and out of breath, the new recruits started retching, and collapsed where they stood.

YOU CAN REST FOR A WHILE



WHAT'S... WITH HIM...?

HOW... CAN HE LOOK SO CALM LIKE IT WAS NOTHING?

Haa

:Huff:

Haa

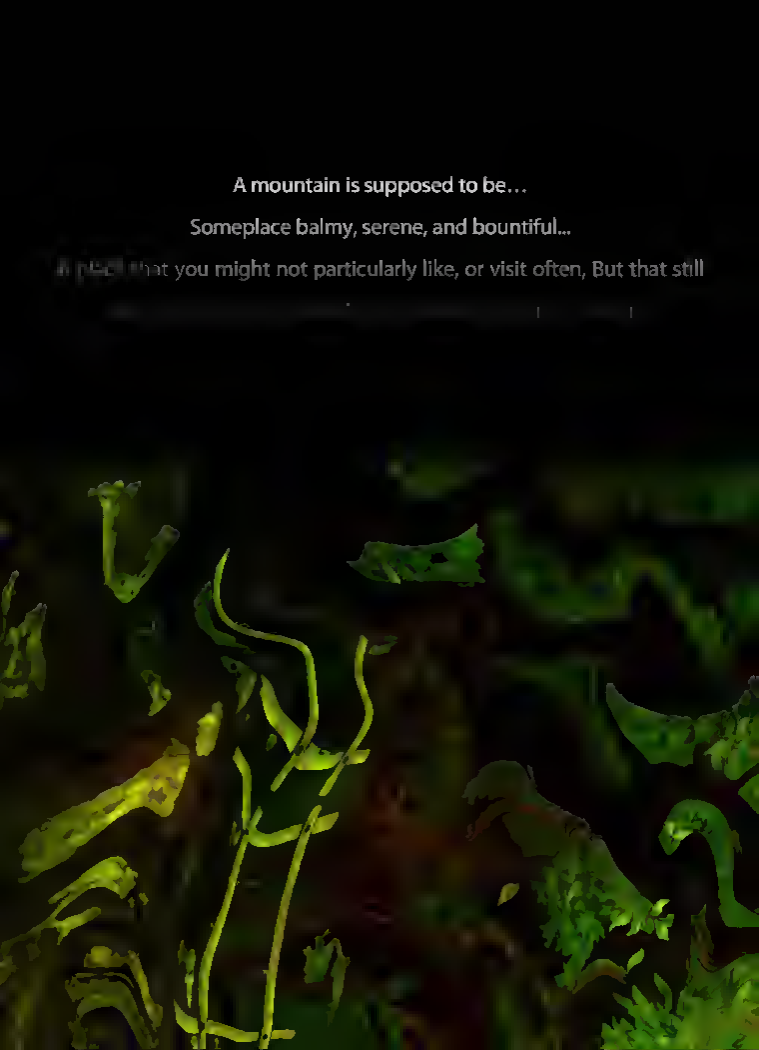
AND...
THE MOUNTAINS I KNOW...

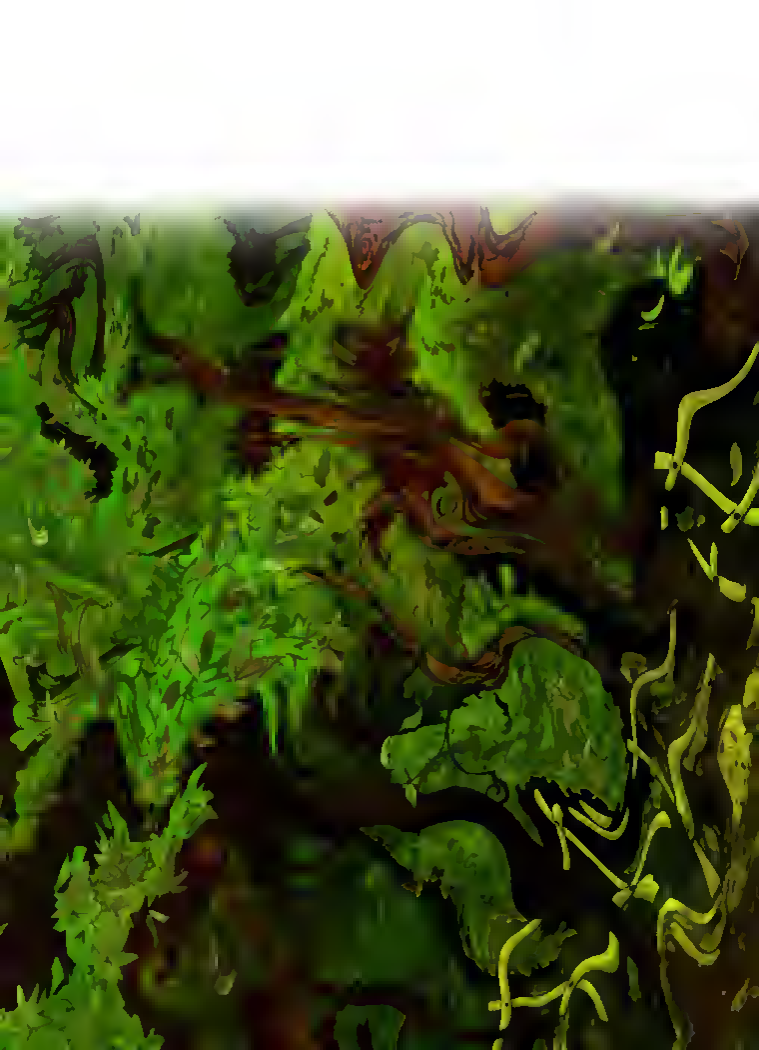
DON'T FEEL LIKE THIS...

A mountain is supposed to be…

Someplace balmy, serene, and bountiful...

A place that you might not particularly like, or visit often, But that still





"On your feet, now!"

The senior's voice cut through our confusion.
Ah, is the death race about to start again?
Just how much farther do we have to go,
before we can reach the Mountain Rescue Station?

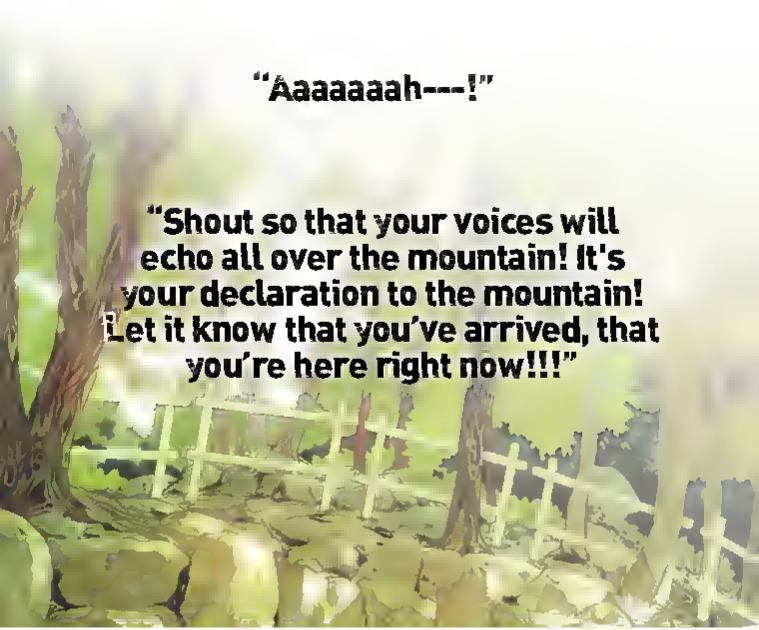
"Open your eyes, newbies! Suck in your guts! Take a deep breath!"

"SShuup!"

"Mountain Rescue Unit, 10th Class! Beyond that ridge is the place you'll call home for the next two years! Give a mighty shout for three seconds, so that the commander and other seniors can hear you from the station!!!"

"Wuaaah----!"

"Are you whispering?! Do you think anyone could hear that? Louder!!!"


"Aaaaaaah---!"
"Shout so that your voices will echo all over the mountain! It's your declaration to the mountain! Let it know that you've arrived, that you're here right now!!!"

*SIGN: BUKBU POLICE STATION

GOOD JOB.

*SHIRT: MT. BUKHAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

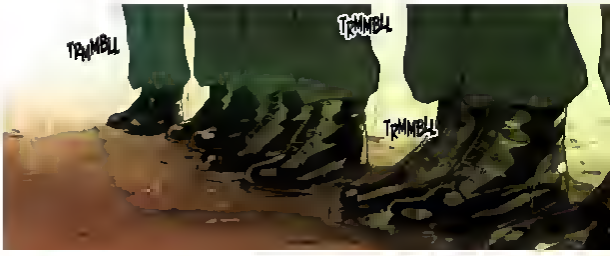
CHUNGSEONG!!!

#M1 BUKHAN MOUNTAIN POLICE RESCUE UNIT

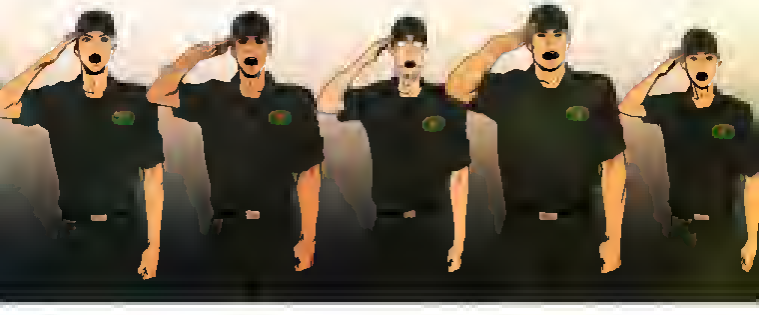
Reporting, sir!

Cst. Ryu Yeon-Seong! Cst. Im Bae-ho!
Cst. Go Hak-mun! Cst Nam Gi-jung!
Cst. Park Gwang-do! The aforementioned
five have been ordered to transfer
to the Mt. Bukhan Mountain Police
Rescue Unit on July 14th, 1998, sir!
Reporting for duty, sir!

YOU'VE DONE WELL TO COME UP.
THE IMPRESSION YOU GOT FROM YOUR FIRST CLIMB ..
IS WHAT FORMS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN.
YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONES. I HOPE YOU WORK HARD AND PROVE TO ME THAT I'VE MADE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE.



Chungseong!!!

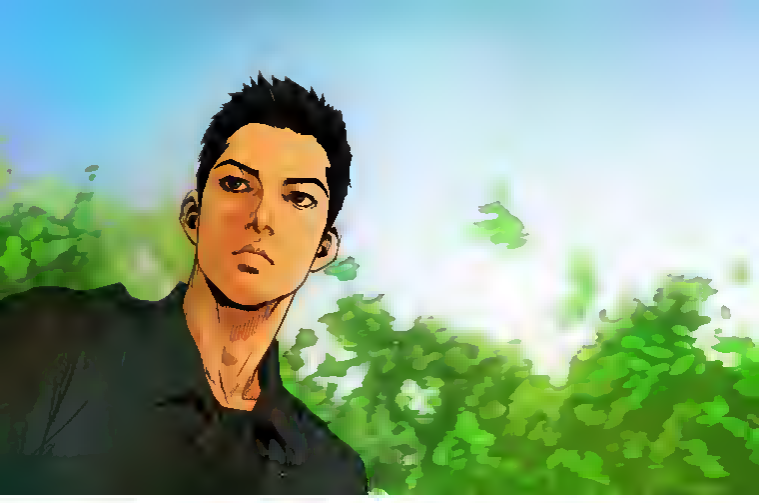


WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND GET READY. WE'RE HAVING A SAMGYEOPSAL* PARTY TODAY!
WHOA, YOU BOUGHT SO MUCH, SIR. WHO'S GOING TO EAT ALL THIS?
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THESE KIDS
GO AND WASH UP, COMMANDER. WE'LL GET EVERYTHING SET UP!
ALRIGHT, HURRY UP!
YAY! COLD COLA.

*SAMGYEOPSAL | A POPULAR KOREAN PORK DISH. HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/SAMGYEOPSAL

It's said that everything in this world
is either material or spiritual in nature.

And how you distinguish one from the other is that,
something material is what you learn, and
something spiritual is what you perceive.



It wasn't until much later that I perceived that the one who chose me—all of us—wasn't the commander… But the very mountain itself.

Rock.1
That Someone's Choice

–End–

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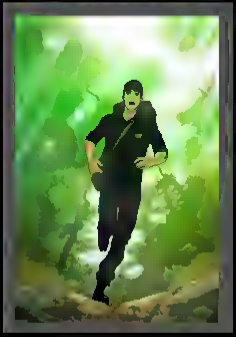

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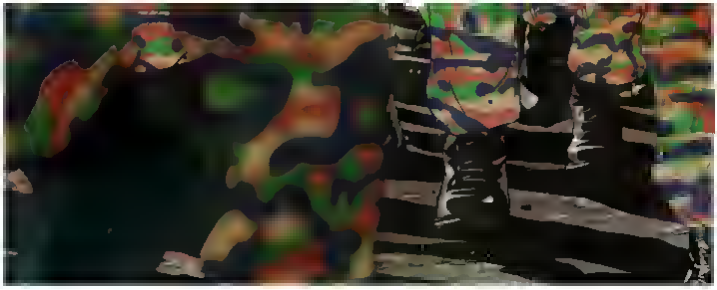
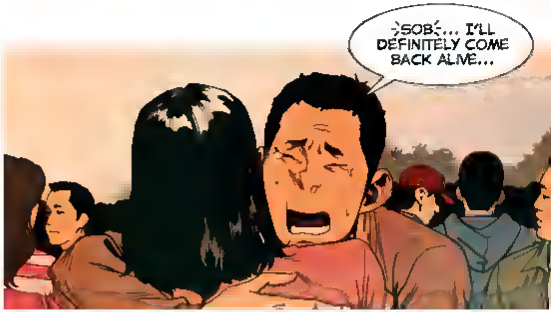
Military service!!!
Every able-bodied young man in the Republic of Korea must serve in the military without exception.



And they must do so in their early 20's, right at the 'peak' of their youth!

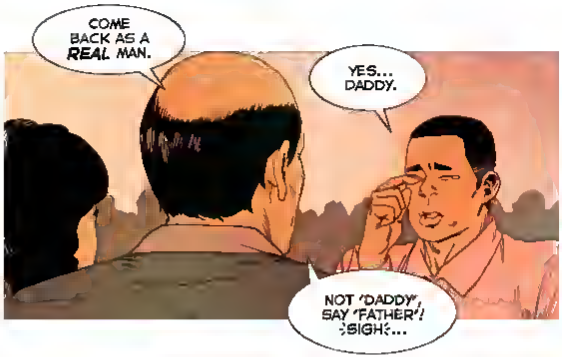
Leaving behind the girl they love...



*NOT BLOOD-RELATED BROTHERS, BUT UNDERLINGS IN A GANG **HYUNG-NIM. AN HONORIFIC USED BY MALES TO ADDRESS OLDER BROTHERS/MALE FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES WHO HAVE SENIORITY OVER THEM

Their faithful brothers*...

Their loving parents...

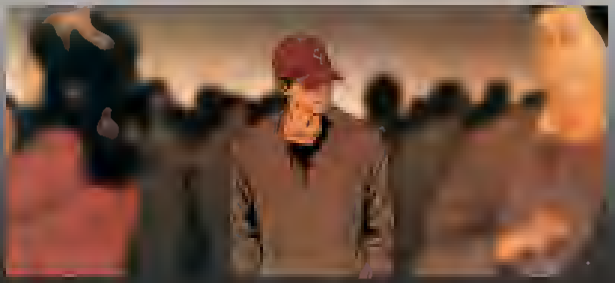


And their important projects unfinished.

*RED SIGN WELCOME BLUE SIGN CRADLE OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

No one else can go in your place!!!

Alone, away from the circumstances of his hidden past...



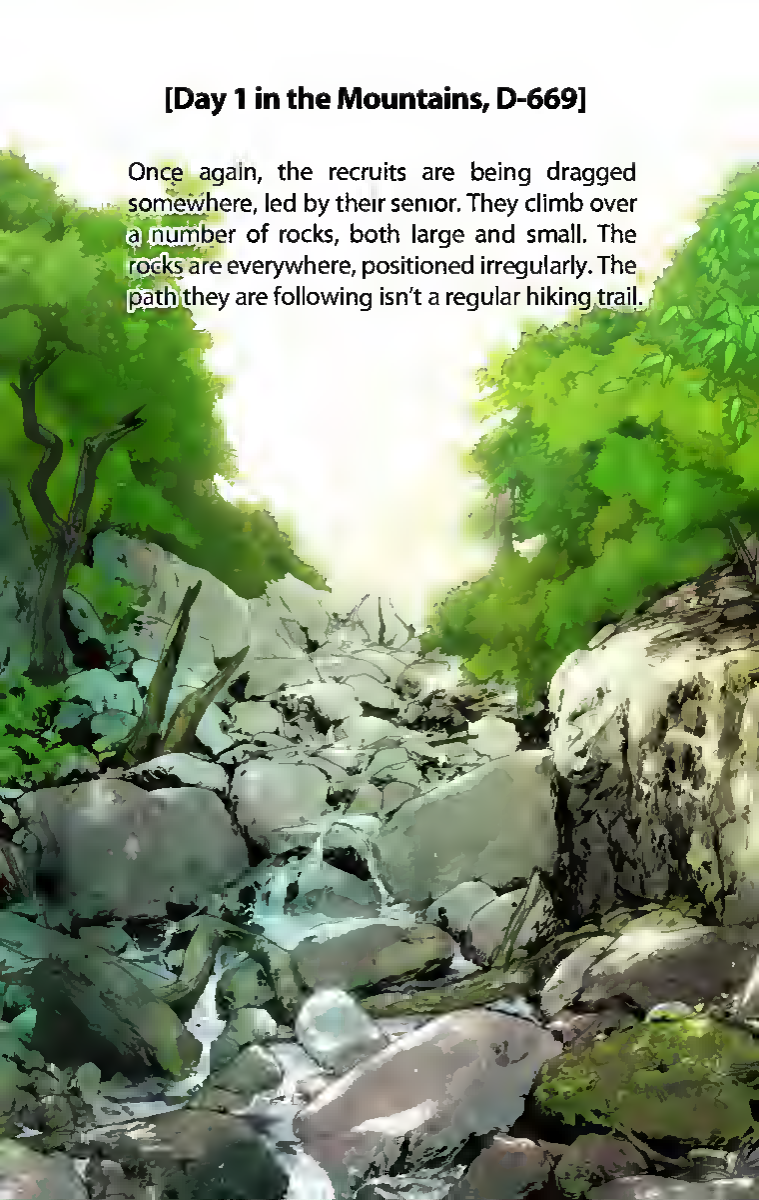
A ‘Boy’ becomes a ‘Man’!

PEAK
art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

Rock. 02
Scent
of a Woman

[Day 1 in the Mountains, D-669]

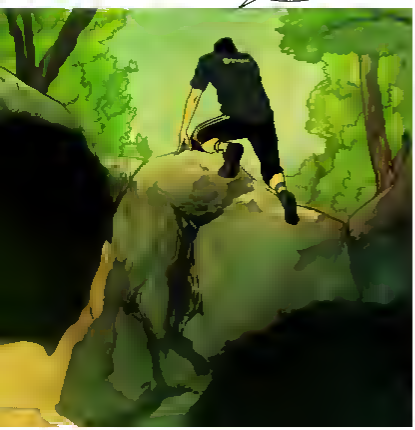
Once again, the recruits are being dragged somewhere, led by their senior. They climb over a number of rocks, both large and small. The rocks are everywhere, positioned irregularly. The path they are following isn't a regular hiking trail.



The impression you got from your first climb is what forms your attitude toward the mountain.

Hoo

BE CAREFUL. IT'S SLIPPERY HERE.



Hoo...

Haa...

Ugh! MY LEG...
!!!
SLIP
Ack! CAREFUL, YEON-SEONG!
MORON! HE WAS OVERDOING IT EARLIER, AND NOW HE'S PAYING FOR IT..
AH, SORRY...

Can't you lot move any faster...?

ARE THOSE... THE SHOWERS...?

You have five seconds. Strip!

Everyone in the water, now!!!

Brrrr...
Huaaaah...

Ahhh... THE WATER'S ICE COLD...
W-WHAT. A CRUEL FATE THIS IS...!
:Chatter:
SHIT, MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA BURST...!
:Chatter:

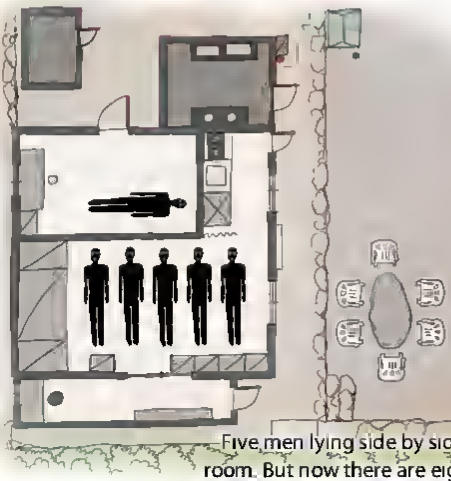
It was still mid-summer, but
darkness fell at 6 pm in the evening.

In the mountains, night
always reigns longer than day.

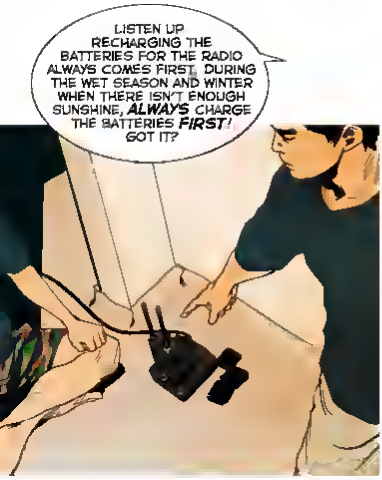
The darkness that arrives a beat too soon tires both the body and mind even more.

AH... I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS DAMN RAIN! NEVER MIND WATCHING DRAMAS, IT WON'T EVEN LET US TURN ON THE TV... GOD...
AND I'M GETTING DISCHARGED IN A WEEK, TOO...

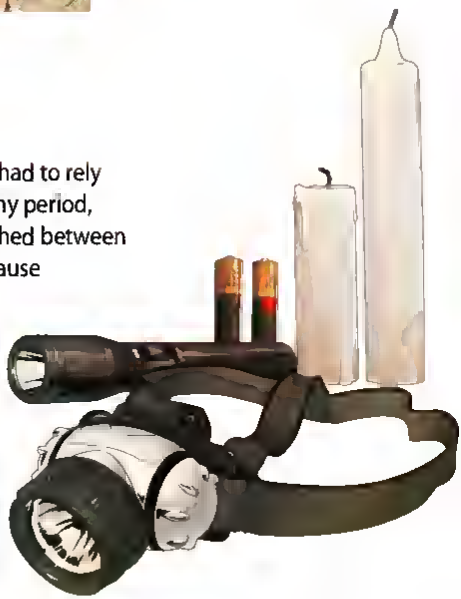
The rescue station's interior is roughly 26.4m^2 in size. Subtracting the boiler room and the commander's room, about 13.2 m^2 is left for the members. Take out the space for equipment and private lockers, and the room becomes even more cramped.



Five men lying side by side is enough to fill the whole room. But now there are eight. The room is overcrowded, and it only serves to exacerbate the fatigue.


LISTEN UP. RECHARGING THE BATTERIES FOR THE RADIO ALWAYS COMES FIRST. DURING THE WET SEASON AND WINTER WHEN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SUNSHINE, ALWAYS CHARGE THE BATTERIES FIRST! GOT IT?

No electricity meant they had to rely on solar power, so this rainy period, with a day of sun sandwiched between three days of rain, was a cause of great frustration for all.



Therefore, power lanterns, batteries, and candles were very valuable commodities.

What an annoying place this is!

AH, MY NECK FEELS STIFF. I WANT TO STRETCH A BIT.
WHAT KIND OF ARMY IS THIS, IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
CONDITIONS ARE SO POOR.
WE'RE SHORT ON TIME, AND THE SAME GOES FOR ELECTRICITY. RIGHT, WE'LL START YOUR TRAINING NOW.
T-TRAINING?!
WE'RE GOING TO RUN AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
Argh, GIVE ME A BREAK, PLEASE...
DON'T BE SCARED, AND PAY ATTENTION.

THIS IS THE EQUIPMENT LOCKER. EXCEPT FOR THE STRETCHERS, IT HOLDS EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT YOU'LL BE USING FOR RESCUE ACTIVITIES.
TAKE GREAT CARE IN LOOKING AFTER THEM. THESE ARE YOUR LIFELINES.

So began the training, and for the next four hours the recruits were taught the names of basic equipment and how to use them.

Ropes. Quickdraws. Various types of slings.

Descenders. Harnesses (safety belts). The seniors drilled the recruits relentlessly, lecturing them on the names of every piece of equipment and the ways to use them.

Glancing at the clock every so often, they rattled off instructions to teach them as much as possible...

As if they were being chased by something...

I HAVE TO LEARN AND WORK WITH THESE THINGS FROM NOW? NO WAY...
AH... MY HEAD HURTS...

NO. 1, RYU YEON--khek!
DUMBASS, WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?! YOU'LL BE ENTERING THE KAP (KOREAN ALPINE SCHOOL) IN THREE DAYS!
YOU NEED TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH ALL THIS BY THEN!
THERE IT IS! JU-HAN'S KILLER MOVE!
OH... THE SNAKE HOOK!

You have five seconds to run outside and line up! Go!!!

AH, CRAP...
BLOODY HELL, THAT MORON...
DAMN IT...
?!

WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS...?

HEY ASSHOLE! MOVE!

WHAT THE...? SHIT, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
OH MY... IT'S LIKE WE'RE INSIDE A CLOUD... Whoa...
HEY, DON'T PUSH. I CAN'T SEE.../

To be continued...

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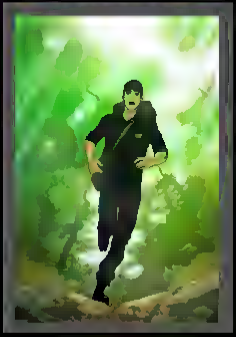
PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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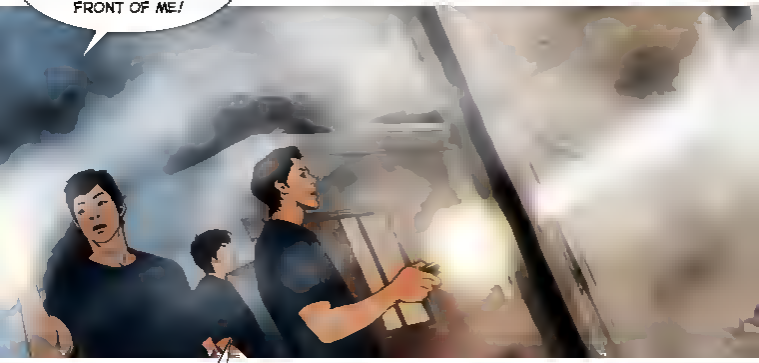
WHAT THE...? SHIT, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
OH MY... IT'S LIKE WE'RE INSIDE A CLOUD... Whoa...
HEY, DON'T PUSH. I CAN'T SEE...!

PEAK

art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN... BUT WHAT AWFUL FOG.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HAD GAS THIS THICK. I CAN'T SEE A METER IN FRONT OF ME!



WOW... THIS IS NO JOKE... DOESN'T IT FEEL... RATHER ***OMINOUS...?***

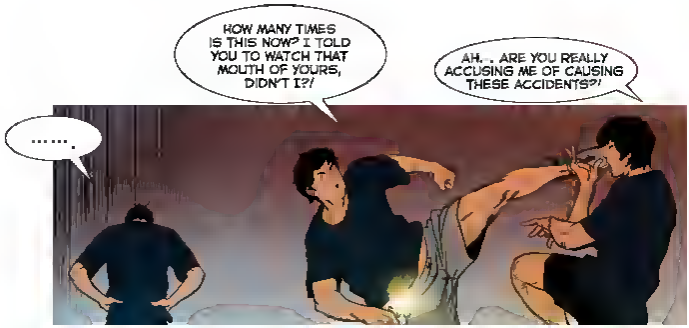
AH... C'MON MAN, GEEZ...

Hup?!

*PHYSICAL TRAINING

Hey...! Rescue Unit... Rescue Unit...!!!

Rescue Unit...! Rescue Unit...!!!


HOW MANY TIMES IS THIS NOW? I TOLD YOU TO WATCH THAT MOUTH OF YOURS, DIDN'T I?!
AH. . ARE YOU REALLY ACCUSING ME OF CAUSING THESE ACCIDENTS?!
.....

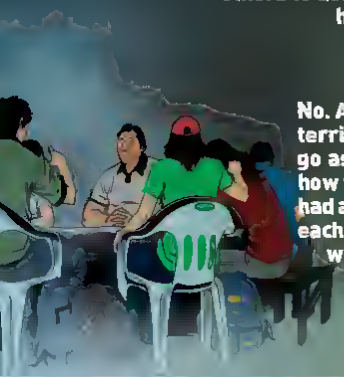
RESCUE UNIT..! RESCUE UNIT..!!!
???
:Huff:
:Huff:
:Huff:
Haa Haa... PLEASE HELP US!
EIGHT PEOPLE FROM OUR GROUP :Huff:... GOT LOST... Haa... Haa...

We didn't know it'd get so dark this fast. There seemed to be a little fog, and whoa... It just came over us in the blink of an eye! We only had two lanterns with us, and...

It's very fortunate that no one's been hurt. About your companions... Where did you lose them?

They were right next to us. But when they veered slightly off the hiking trail, the problem began. We wanted to follow, but we just couldn't, you know?

I mean, when I put out my arm, I couldn't see it even with the lantern on! It was pitch-black, yet so... white too... So, I-I figured that since the Rescue Unit wasn't very far away, and since I could still recognize the trail with the light from the lantern, I'd urge the others to descend first and call for help! And...



No. Actually, the remaining people were all terrified and exhausted, so I said, let's just go as far as the Rescue Station! And that's how we made it here. But none of the others had a lantern, so I told them to stick close to each other in a single file... That's because we couldn't even see what was below our feet...

NOW, NOW. SIR, I'M NOT TRYING TO BLAME YOU FOR ANYTHING. PLEASE CALM DOWN AND TELL ME WHERE YOU LOST YOUR COMPANIONS.
IT WAS ABOUT... 50-60 METERS UP FROM CAMPSITE 2!
BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY HEAR ANYTHING UP THERE BECAUSE OF THE WATER FROM THE GORGE! WE COULDN'T HEAR OUR VOICES AT ALL WHEN WE TRIED TO TALK--NOT AT ALL!

JU-HAN, MYEONG-JUN. TAKE TWO GUYS AND GO UP TO HAVE A LOOK.
MAKE SURE TO TAKE THE RADIO, AND IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, SEND US A MESSAGE RIGHT AWAY. AND YOU STAY AT THE STATION, JI-TAE.
YES, SIR.
I'M GOING TO TAKE THEM TO THE INSU MOUNTAIN LODGE. IT'S TOO COLD UP HERE.

YEON-SEONG, COME WITH ME!
NO. 1 RYU YEON-SEONG!
NO. 2 IM BAE-HO!
BAE-HO, GWANG-DO! COME WITH ME!
NO. 5 PARK GWANG-DO!

CAMPSITE 21
HE SAID IT WAS ABOUT 50-60 METERS UP FROM CAMPSITE 21 HERE... RIGHT?
YES, PLEASE GO UP THE HIKING TRAIL AND TAKE A LOOK, SGT.* LEE. I'LL SEARCH THE SURROUNDING AREAS
*SERGEANT
ALRIGHT, BE CAREFUL. RADIO US IF YOU FIND THEM.../
YES, SIR, WE'LL BE OFF THEN.../

YEON-SEONG! FOCUS, AND FOLLOW RIGHT BEHIND ME!
STEP ONLY ON THE ROCKS THAT I STEP ON!
YES, SIR!
Haa
Haa
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

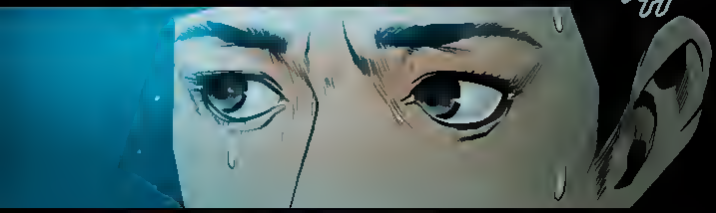
BOOM...
Haa
Haa
WE'RE GOING SLOWLY, BUT.. YOU CAN'T SEE A THING..
HUFF HUFF

THIS IS ONE OF THE FACES OF THE MOUNTAIN. ONE OF THE MOST FEARSOME FACES OF THE MOUNTAIN YOU'LL EVER SEE!
SHHH SHHH SHHH SHHH
Haa
ONE... OF THE MOST FEARSOME FACES... OF THE MOUNTAIN...?
Haa
SHHH SHHH SHHH
SHHH SHHH SHHH SHHH
...WHAT'S HE SAYING? I CAN'T HEAR HIM WELL...

Hee

EHHH EHHH EHHH

ANYWAY...



Hee

HOW DOES HE KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING?

WHAT'S HE BASING IT ON...?

Hee

WAIT...
S-SUNBAE-
NIM!
Hah
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
Hah
BA-DUMP
Hah

ON EITHER SIDE OF ME...
THERE COULD BE SHEER CLIFFS, RIGHT?!

Ba-DUMP
Huh
.....
Ba-DUMP
Huh
BA-DUMP
Huh
.....
Huh?!
SUNBAE-NIM...!
KIM JU-HAN SUNBAE-NIM...!!!

THIS IS BAD! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM..!
CAREFUL...
Haa
CAREFUL...
Haa
CAREFUL..
Haa
Haa

WHERE...

THE HELL IS THIS ...?

Hah

WHERE THE HELL AM I?

Hah

WHERE AM I GOING...?

Haa

Haa

SHIT...!!!

DAMN IT...

DID I...

GET...
LOST...?!

WOOOOO
!!!
:Gasp:
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!
:Huff: :Huff:...
Whew... WHAT KIND OF WIND WAS THAT...?
IT FELT LIKE A SHEET OF ICE...

Hee
OH... SO THERE WASN'T A CLIFF HERE?
Hee
WHAT A RELIEF.

...Huh...?
MY FIRST DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS AS A RESCUE MEMBER...
NO, AS SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO BECOME A RESCUE MEMBER, AND I GET LOST.

AND HERE I WAS
THINKING, 'WHAT A RELIEF'...

SNAP OUT OF IT!
IF I EMBARRASS MYSELF
ANY FURTHER...

I MIGHT BE BETTER
OFF DEAD!

To be continued...

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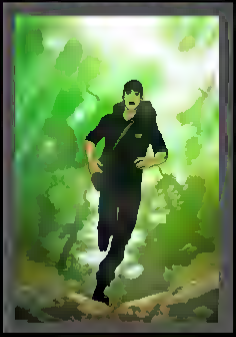
PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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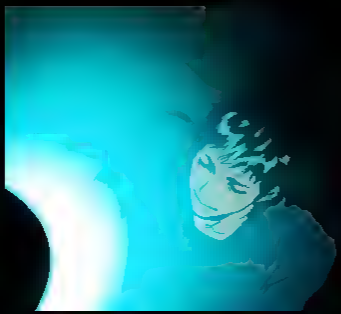
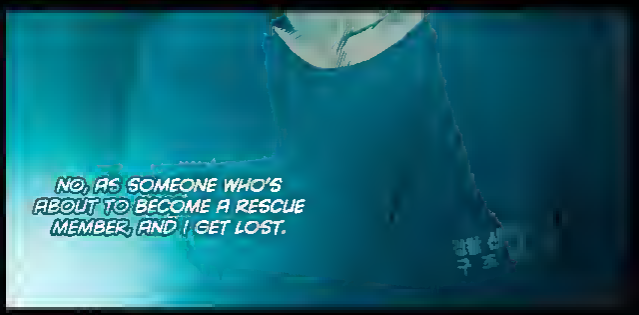


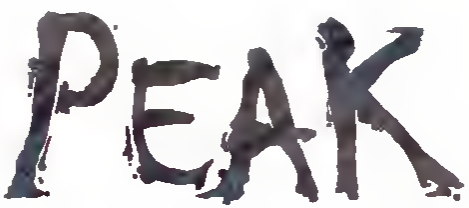
MY FIRST DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS AS A RESCUE MEMBER...



AND HERE I WAS THINKING, 'WHAT A RELIEF'...

SNAP OUT OF IT. IF I EMBARRASS MYSELF ANY FURTHER...

I MIGHT BE BETTER
OFF DEAD!

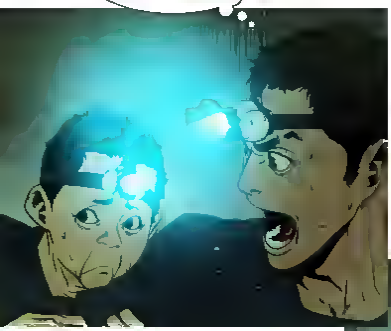


art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su

:Huff:...

:Huff:...

LET GO OF ME ALREADY, DUMBASS!



HEY, BAE-HO...

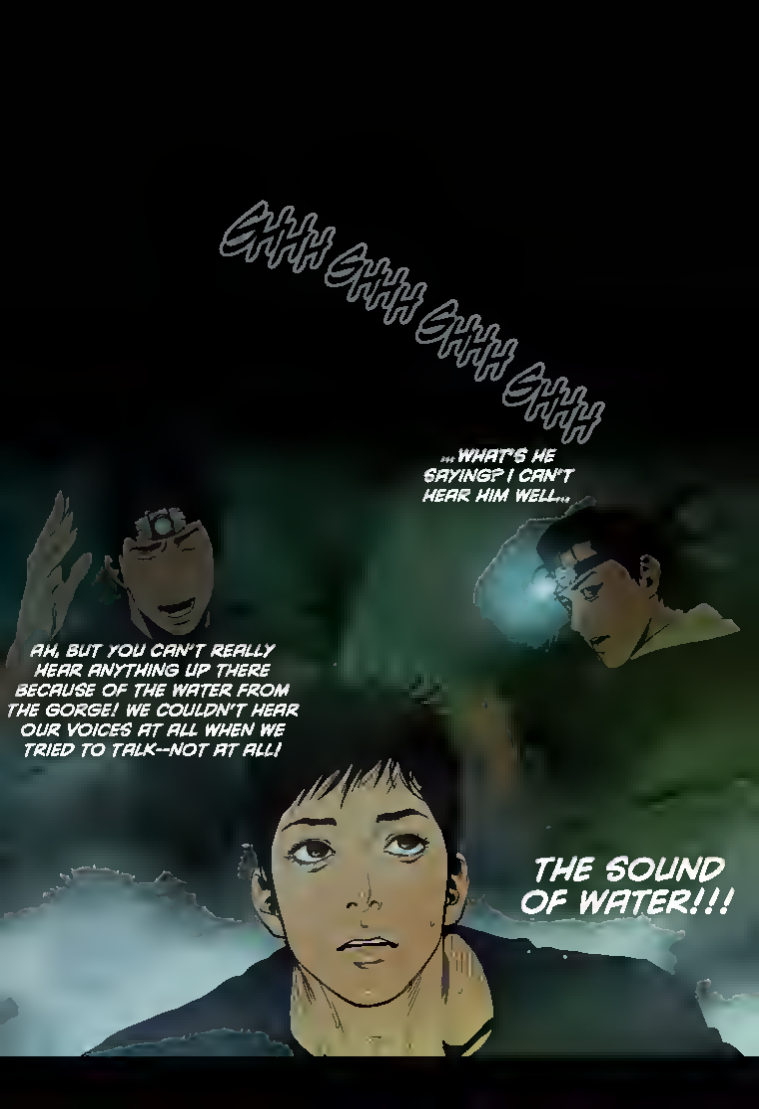
NO. I AM BAE-HO!

GRAB MY SHIRT... NOT MY SHORTS.

YESSIR!
Ugh!
YIKES?!

Huff...
Huff...
Huff...
Hah...
Hah...

HEHE...
IF CHILDISH RECKLESSNESS OR A COOL HEAD WAS ALL YOU NEEDED...
THEN NO ONE WOULD EVER GET LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS, RIGHT...?

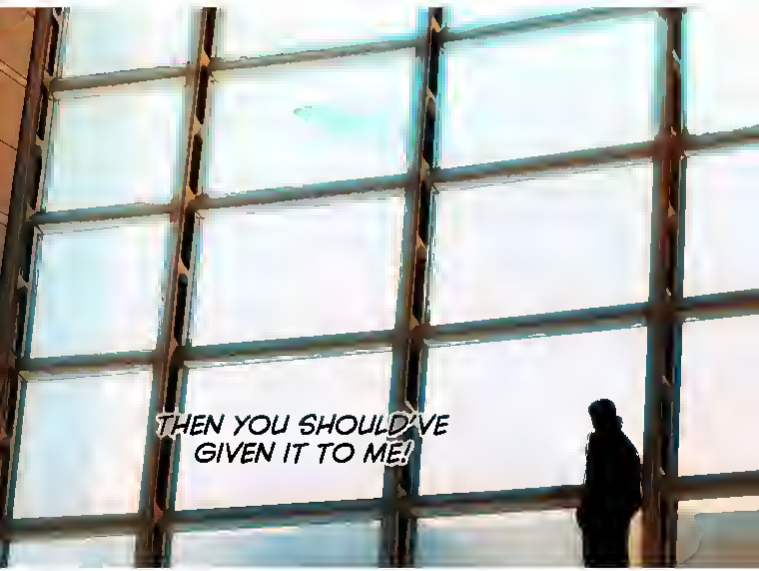

SHHH SHHH SHHH SHHH
...WHAT'S HE SAYING? I CAN'T HEAR HIM WELL...
AH, BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY HEAR ANYTHING UP THERE BECAUSE OF THE WATER FROM THE GORGE! WE COULDN'T HEAR OUR VOICES AT ALL WHEN WE TRIED TO TALK--NOT AT ALL!
THE SOUND OF WATER!!!

LIKE THE 'SHOWERS' WE USED EARLIER TODAY, THE PEOPLE WHO GOT LOST MIGHT BE NEAR SOMEPLACE LIKE A WATERFALL WHERE THE SOUND OF THE WATER'S REALLY LOUD!
SUNBAE-NIM MIGHT BE THERE TOO...
LET'S GO... LET'S FOLLOW THE SOUND OF THE WATER...!
TOT TEO
TOT
TEO
BUT, I FEEL WEIRD... MY BODY DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S MY OWN...

*BANNER: TRAINEE SELECTION TRIAL FOR NEW YORK OO SCHOOL

WHAT IS THAT?

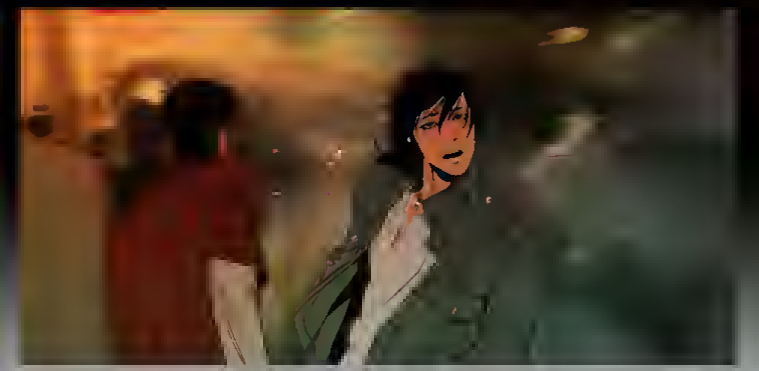
ooo...


THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO FIND, RIGHT?
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN IT TO ME!

THE TICKET
TO NEW YORK!

NOT AN ENLISTMENT NOTICE...

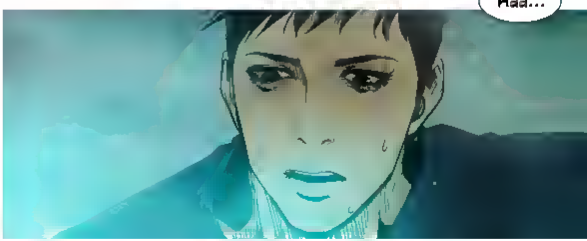
BUT A...



NEW WORLD...!!!

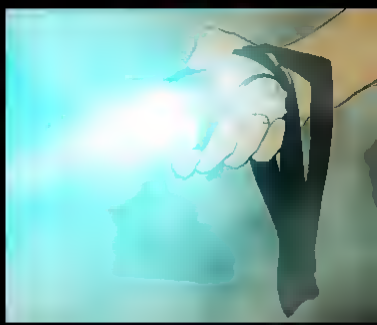
Haa...

Haa...

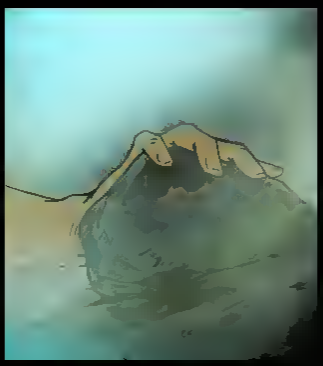


THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE GETTING DISTRACTED...
I'VE GOT TO HURRY... JU-HAN SUNBAE PROBABLY FOUND THE LOST CLIMBERS BY NOW...
Haa...
SHIT. TOOK THE WRONG TRAIL AGAIN.
HERE, THE SOUND OF THE WATER IS EVEN FAINTER THAN BEFORE
Haa...
AAAA——!!!
!!!

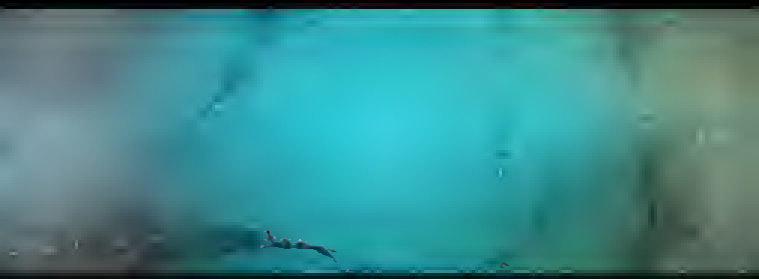
DDDDDD



BA-DUMP
I-IT'S COMING... THIS WAY!
THAT SOUND... ISN'T THE SOUND OF SHOES...
BA-DUMP
IT'S NOT... HUMAN!
SHOULD I TURN OFF THE LIGHT? NO. MY LOCATION'S ALREADY EXPOSED...
IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE FOR ME IF I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
C'MON, THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING I CAN USE...!



I'LL HIT IT...

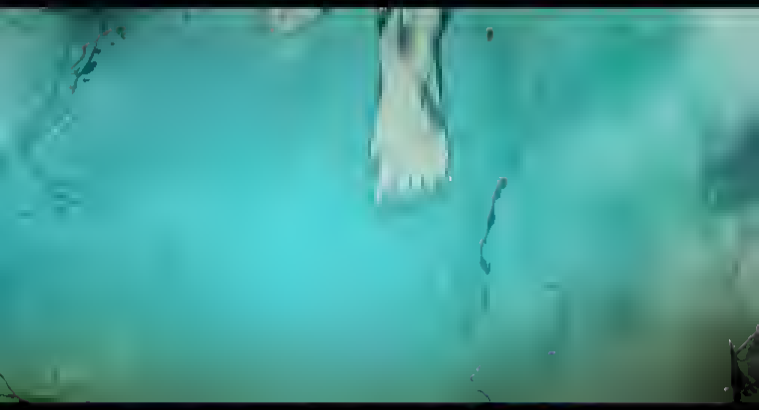


WHEN IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

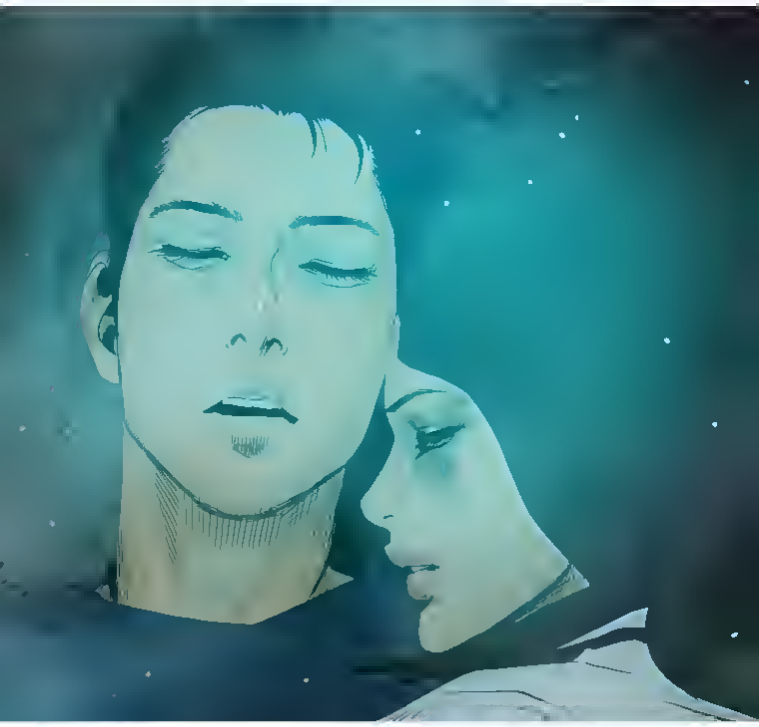
BA-DUMP

COME CLOSER...

NOW!!!



ooo!!!

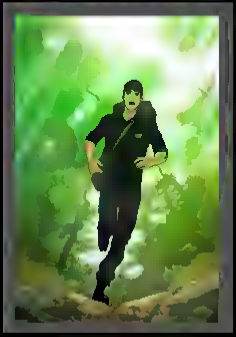


To be continued...

CARTOON CREATIVE MULTIMEDIA

PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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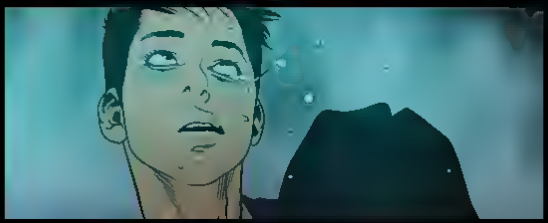

art Im Gang-hyeok
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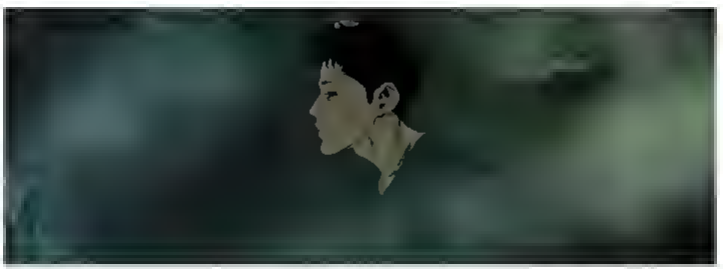


THE LANTERN! WHERE'S THE LANTERN?
AND THE GIRL...?
WHERE'D SHE GO?
WHAT THE...?
THAT GIRL TOOK THE LANTERN?!

CRAP! HOW CAN I GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A LANTERN...?
AH... IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL?!
!!!

H-HEY! JUST WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO?
GIVE ME BACK MY LANTERN...
WHERE DO YOU THINK...?

I WENT TO BRING BACK THE LOST CLIMBERS!!!

WHAT THE HELL WERE ***YOU*** DOING?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE DAMNED RESCUE UNIT!

SHUT IT, AND BRING UP THE REAR! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED SO THAT THERE AREN'T ANY SECONDARY ACCIDENTS!

AND YOU LOST YOUR LANTERN? ANYWAY, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, IDIOT!

.....

NO.
NAH.
NOPE...?

THAT GIRL.. ISN'T HERE!
WHERE'D SHE GO?

Bzzzt- "White Cloud Leader (Commander), White Cloud Two (Myeong-jun)! This is White Cloud Three! We've found all eight missing climbers! We're heading to the Insu Mountain Lodge!"

Bzzzt- [White Cloud Three (Ju-han), this is White Cloud Leader! Affirmative. Careful on your way down!]

Bzzzt- [White Cloud Three, this is White Cloud Two! We'll head straight to the Insu Mountain Lodge immediately!]

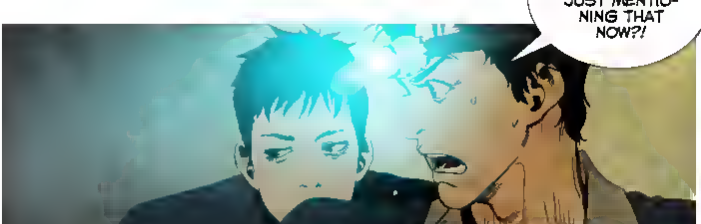
;SOB; ;SOB;
I WAS SO SCARED THAT I THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE. .

OKAY EVERYONE, LET'S GO DOWN!
ONCE WE MAKE IT ACROSS HARU PASS, MOST OF THE GAS WILL HAVE CLEARED.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY, AND SLOWLY FOLLOW THE RESCUE MEMBERS.

Er, SUNBAE-NIM. WE'RE MISSING A GIRL I RAN INTO EARLIER.

WHAT?!

DUMBASS! WHY'RE YOU JUST MENTIONING THAT NOW?!



HEY, PLEASE WAIT! IS EVERYONE HERE?
PLEASE CHECK IF YOU'RE ALL HERE...!
YES, EVERYONE'S HERE! ALL 13 OF US!
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?

That can't be right! I definitely ran into a lady!
She had a long hair, wore a white... blouse, and...
Her face was... very, uhm... around her eyes
was very dark... And her lips were like...

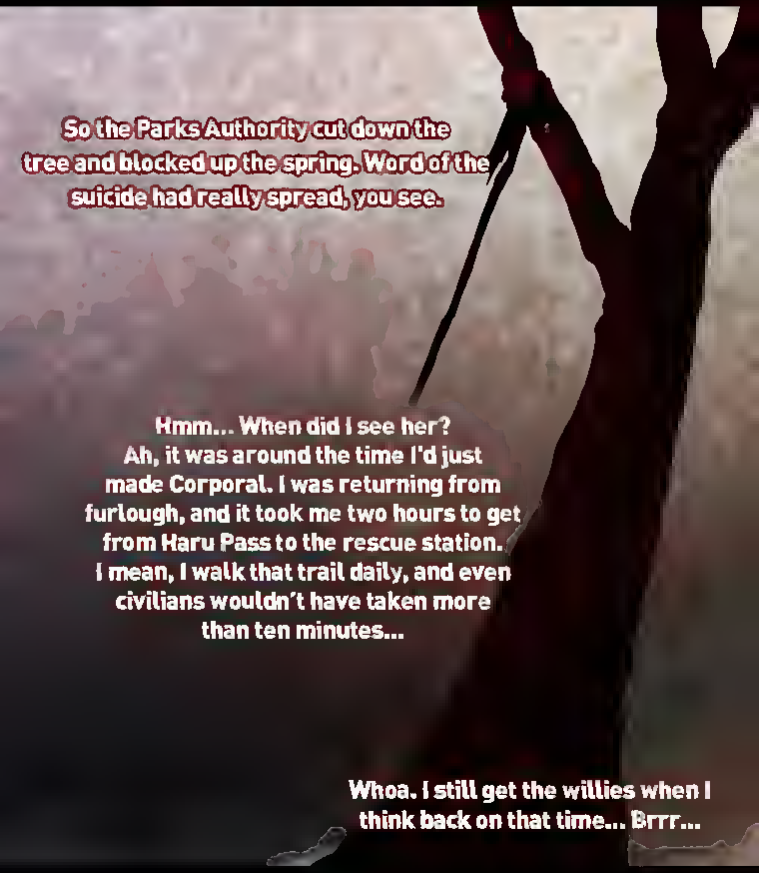
WOW... THIS HAS GOTTA BE A RECORD.
NOW, NOW, JUST FOLLOW SLOWLY BEHIND OUR RESCUE MEMBERS.
...?

SUNBAE-NIM, THEN WHAT ABOUT THAT LADY...?
IT'S HERE
SORRY?

HERE, LOOK CLOSELY.
SEE THAT STUMP OVER THERE?
AND WHAT USED TO BE AN OLD SPRING?

There was once a spring here...
About eight years ago...?

A girl hanged herself from the tree
that was here, or so the story goes.


So the Parks Authority cut down the tree and blocked up the spring. Word of the suicide had really spread, you see.
Hmm... When did I see her?
Ah, it was around the time I'd just made Corporal. I was returning from furlough, and it took me two hours to get from Haru Pass to the rescue station.
I mean, I walk that trail daily, and even civilians wouldn't have taken more than ten minutes...
Whoa. I still get the willies when I think back on that time... Brrr...

Wuaah... you're mean, Mr. Rescuer... why'd you have to tell us such a scary story when we're already so terrified?

So, as I was sayin'...

FROM NOW ON, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS HEAD BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE IT GETS TOO DARK...
KYAAAAH...!!!
RIGHT, EVERYONE! LET'S HEAD BACK DOWN TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING...!!!
HURRY, HURRY...!

*KOREAN GHOST STORIES IS A POPULAR, LONG-RUNNING KOREAN TV SHOW OF OLD KOREAN GHOST TALES.

It was almost 2 AM when they
were finally able to turn in for the night.
And before five minutes had passed, everyone
was in a deep sleep, breathing soundly.

Two of the seniors, in a tent
pitched on the yard of the rescue station,
and the rest, crammed inside the tiny room.

ZZZ
ZZZ
SNORE
ZZZ
ZZZ
SNORE
BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
.....

HAA... I FEEL LIGHT-HEADED...
I'VE GOT TO GET TO SLEEP...
GET TO SLEEP QUICKLY...
Hmm...
Hmm...?
.....

HAA...
THE GHOST...

SMELLS LIKE
FLOWERS...

It was the first day in the mountains.
Just one day out of 669!
But what a struggle it was…

Just to get through that single day.

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"Blood Soul"
colored by Klo (aka Lihony)
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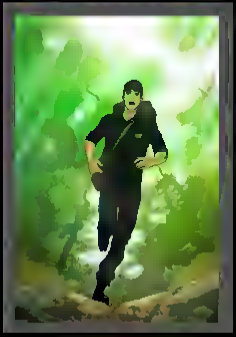
PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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[Day 2 in the Mountains, D-668]
5:30 AM wake up call…
We hardly got any sleep.

After some stretches to loosen up our bodies— all done in silence...

We go for a run on the mountain, relying on our lanterns' light to navigate the darkness.

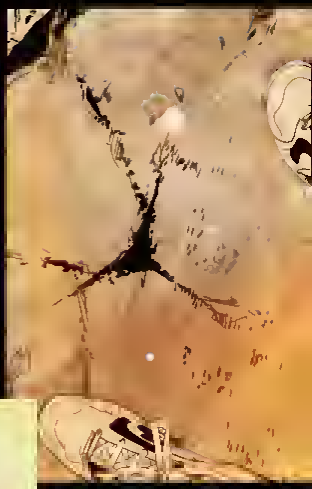
That wasn't real, what happened yesterday… Nothing but a deep, dark nightmare.

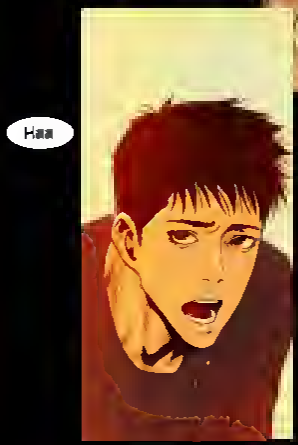
I wish it were a dream, and
that's what I want to believe. But...

Even before the dream ends,
a bout of retching and heaving,
caused by a lack of oxygen...

Is what ushers in the new day for us.

An orange light, rendered unreal by its sheer vividness.

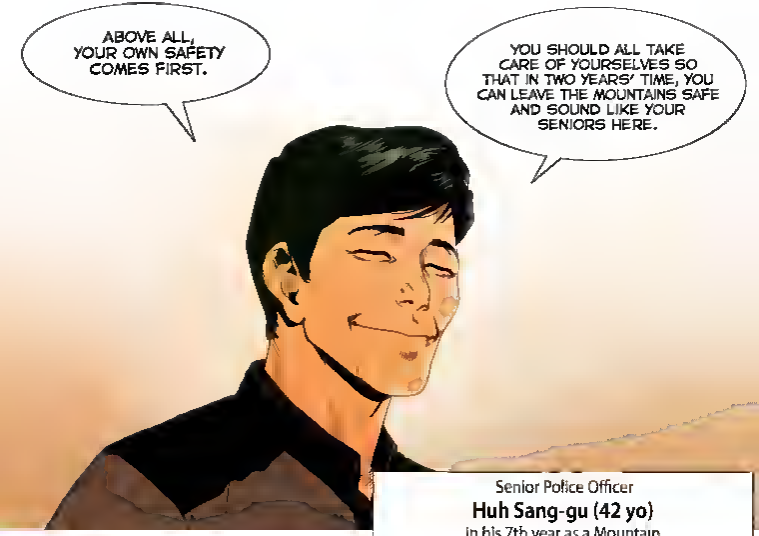




Seriously,
I could do without… this orange light.

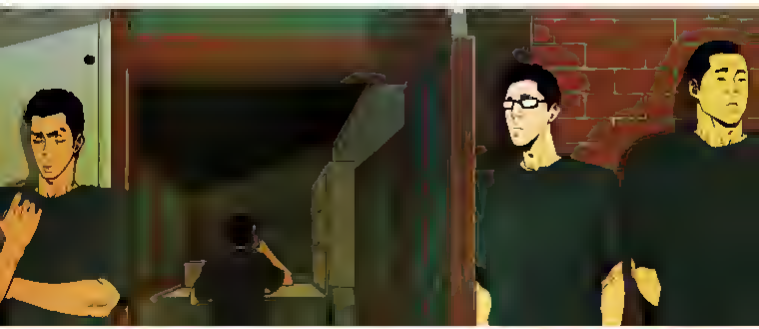
Rock. 03
Rock Paper Scissors

After breakfast, the recruits report their transfer for the second time to the other commander, who serves on alternate days with Cdr. Cheon.


ABOVE ALL, YOUR OWN SAFETY COMES FIRST.
YOU SHOULD ALL TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES SO THAT IN TWO YEARS' TIME, YOU CAN LEAVE THE MOUNTAINS SAFE AND SOUND LIKE YOUR SENIORS HERE.
Senior Police Officer
Huh Sang-gu (42 yo)
in his 7th year as a Mountain Rescue Commander

Yes, sir! Understood, sir!!!

JU-HAN, LET THE BOYS USE THE PHONE TO CALL HOME. REALLY, CDR. CHEON SHOULDN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT...
YES, COMMANDER. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.



IT'S ME, MOM. I GOT HERE SAFELY.
OH, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? HAVE YOU EATEN? DID YOU GET ASSIGNED TO A GOOD UNIT?
YEAH, I CAME TO A NIFTY PLACE. IT'S MT. BUKHAN. DO YOU KNOW IT? IT'S GOT DOSEON TEMPLE AND...
...
...?
HELLO?
MT. BUKHAN? YOU MEAN... THE ONE WITH INSU PEAK?
INSU PEAK...? AH YEAH, I THINK SO. I'M IN THE MT. BUKHAN POLICE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT.

... Hello? Are you there?

Ah... Right. I see. It sounds like a good place where you'll do worthwhile things.

Everything's fine, I hope? Where's Dad? Is he next to you?

...Oh, your Dad's in the bathroom...

Ah, it's okay then. I can't talk for long. I'm fine, so please don't worry about me. I'll call you again later.

Y-Yes, I see. Stay safe, eat well, and take care, okay dear? Yes...

Yes, Mom. Don't worry about me. I'm hanging up now. Bye.

Over the phone…
I could sense how shaken up Mom was

HOO… I SHOULD'VE JUST WRITTEN HER A LETTER…

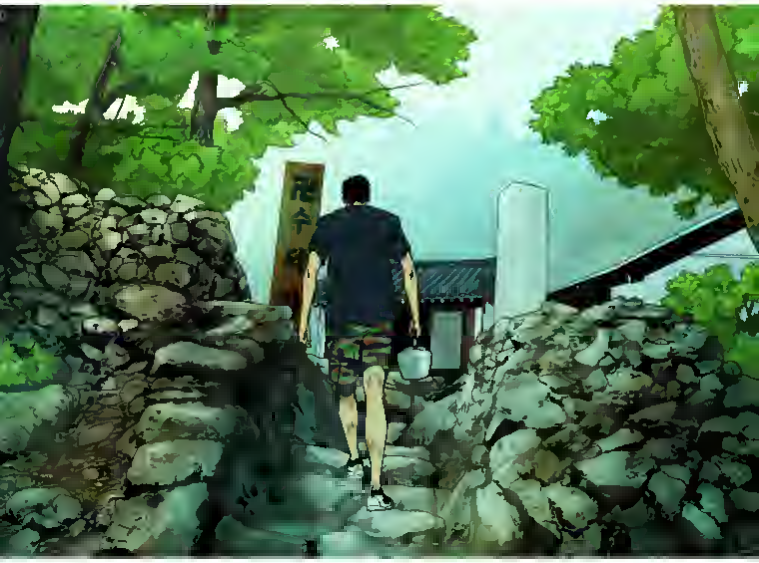
THE GREAT! FOLLOWED BY MT. BUKHAN!!! IT'S THE GREAT MT. BUKHAN!

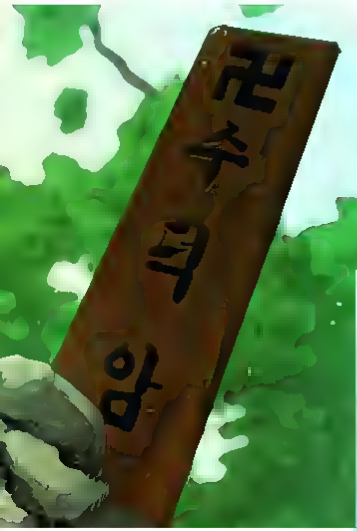
I take a deep breath…
But it doesn't relieve this heaviness in my chest.

YOU DON'T KNOW? YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF MT. BUKHAN? ***WHAT?*** DUMBASS, ***WHY*** WOULD I DEFECT TO NORTH KOREA*…?!

*BUKHAN SOUNDS THE SAME AS NORTH KOREA IN KOREAN

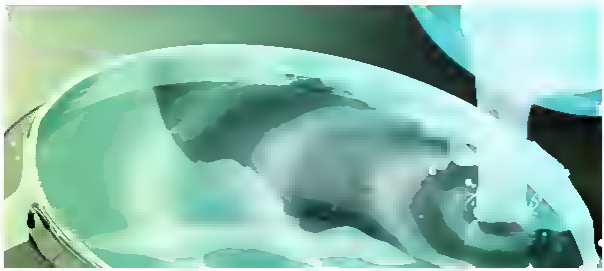
WHAT THE HELL…? HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE REPEAT MYSELF…? IT'S ***NOT*** NORTH KOREA…/ IT'S MT. BUK… SHIT, FORGET IT/ I'M HANGING UP!



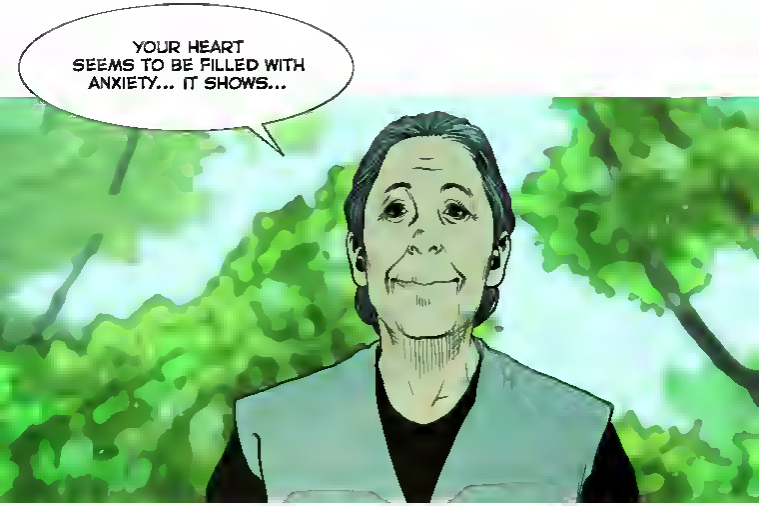


*SIGN 'SUDEOK-AM'
** '-AM' = REFERS TO A SMALL TEMPLE

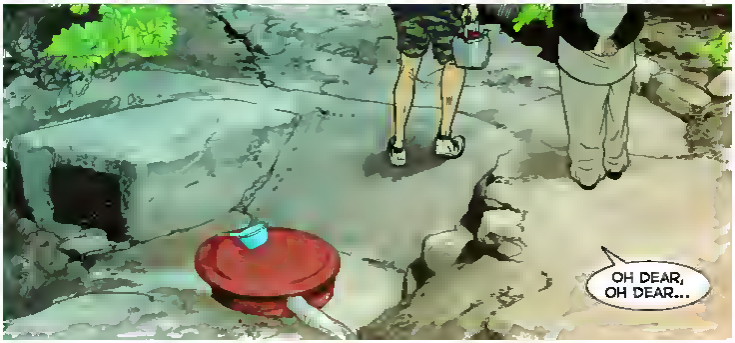
.....



*AN HONORIFIC FOR ADDRESSING FEMALE BUDDHIST NUNS



Sudeok-am, *a temple located up on the right of the rescue station. She is the head nun of the temple. A kindly lady who consoles and looks after the men of the Rescue Unit.*



HOW WORRIED YOUR MOTHER MUST BE, HAVING A PRETTY DAUGHTER LIKE YOU SENT TO A DANGEROUS PLACE LIKE THIS...
D-DAUGHTER...?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

CHEOL-GYU... :Sob: :Sob:...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, TAKING OUT A PICTURE OF YOUR BABY BROTHER ALL OF A SUDDEN AND...?

HONEY, IT'S *THAT* MOUNTAIN! YEON-SEONG... HE'S ON *THAT* MOUNTAIN... :Sob:...

THAT MOUNTAIN? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OUR YEON-SEONG...

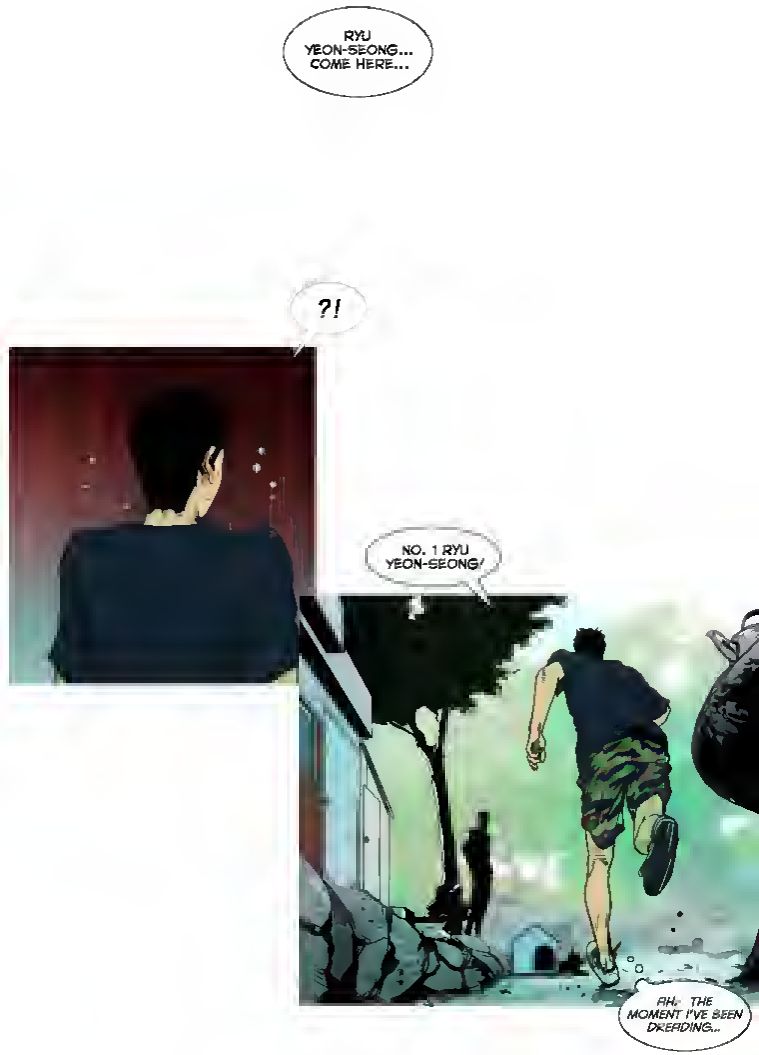
HE'S IN THE MT. BUKHAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT...! WHERE INSU PEAK IS...

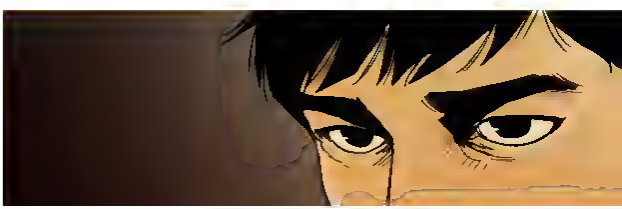
.....

The mountain that swallowed up Cheol-gyu!

PEAK

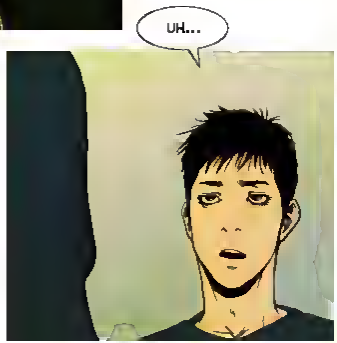
art Im Gang-hyeok
story Hong Seong-su


RYU YEON-SEONG... COME HERE...
?!
NO. 1 RYU YEON-SEONG!
AH, THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN DREADING...



Suddenly stuck with 'two groups of missing people'... You couldn't imagine what was going through my mind at the time.

Ah... I know. I'm very sorry...

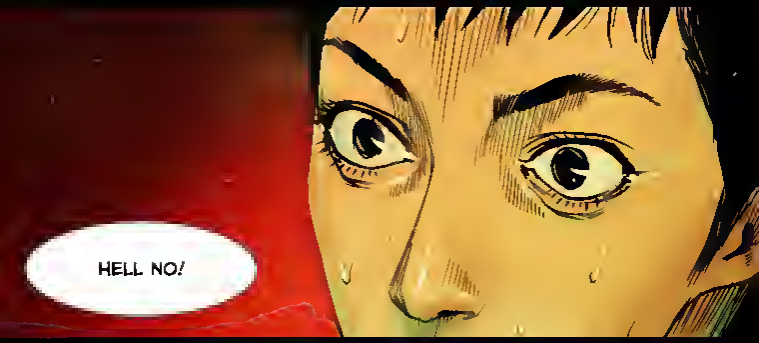


Are you an idiot? Don't you get it? I told you, we're all going be discharged in a month's time, remember...? If something does go wrong because you were spacing out...

IT'S YOUR BODY THAT'LL BE INJURED, AND YOUR LIFE THAT'LL BE DESTROYED!

Did you really think that we drilled you all night just to haze you guys?

Did it really seem like we were desperate to torture you?



The ones who should really be desperate are you guys!

ABOUT LAST NIGHT... SINCE I'M ALSO TO BLAME FOR NOT CHECKING WHAT WAS HAPPENING BEHIND ME, I'LL LET IT SLIDE THIS TIME
BUT THERE WON'T BE A SECOND TIME, YOU BRAINLESS NITWIT!!
ACK! NO. I RYU YEON-SEONG!

BUT ABOUT LAST NIGHT...
I DON'T THINK IT WAS JUST LUCK THAT SAVED HIM.

HE WAS MOVING IN ZIGZAGS, SURE, BUT HE WAS STILL GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
Hmm... WELL, THAT'S TRUE, I SUPPOSE...

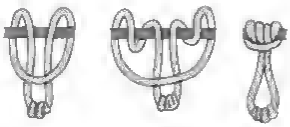
MAYBE... THE FEMALE GHOST TOLD HIM?
Whoa, THEN IS THAT GHOST PLAYING FAVORITES?

A continuation of last night's training…
From 9 AM on, the recruits are taught how to tie various essential knots, such as the figure-eight knot, overhand knot, clove hitch knot, prusik knot, and bowline knot…

Fight-Eight Knot
Used to splice two ropes together or secure a hold

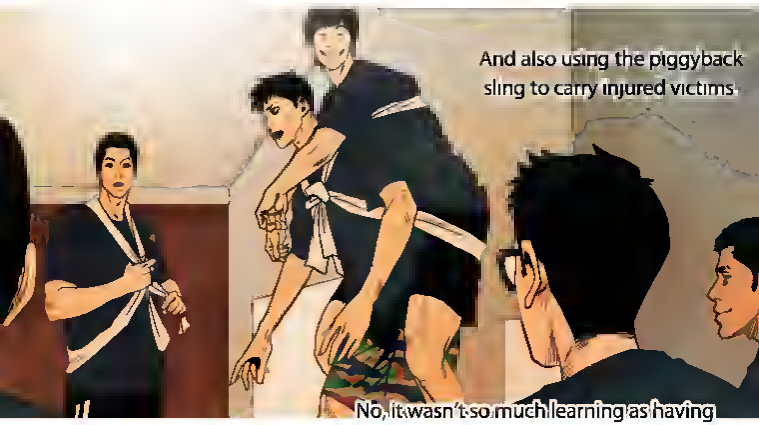
Overhand Knot
Used to prevent the end of a rope from unravelling

Clove Hitch Knot
Used to bind the rope around a fixed object.



Prusik Knot
Used during emergency ascending.

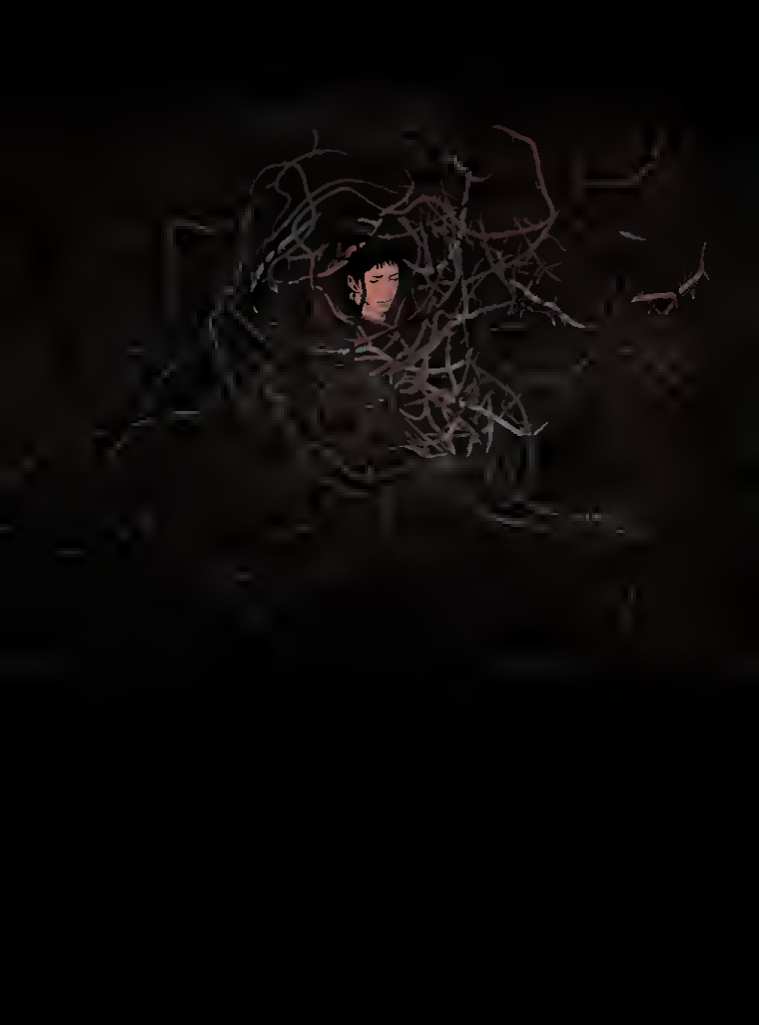
The afternoon was spent learning about types of medicine, tourniquets, elastic bandages, basic first-aid, applying bandages...


And also using the piggyback sling to carry injured victims.
No, it wasn't so much learning as having such knowledge crammed into their heads.

At midnight, they turn in two hours earlier than on the previous night.

I WANT TO GET TO SLEEP QUICKLY...

;Groan;...



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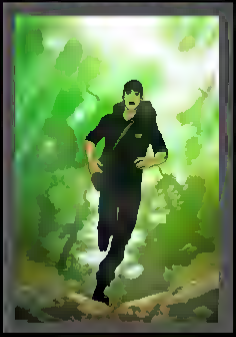

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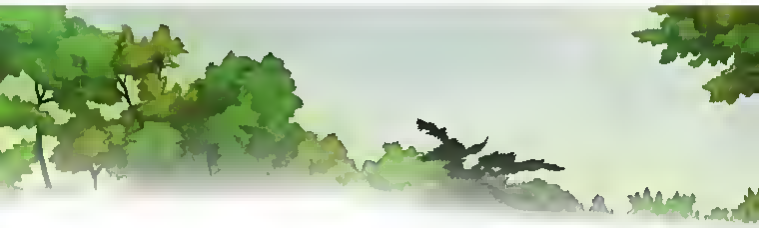
[Day 3 in the Mountains, D-667]



WHITE CLOUD LODGE. . Hmm... NOT BAD, EH?
IT SURE BEATS BEING IN THE RESCUE STATION.
GREAT, HUH? IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL...
BUT TO BE HONEST, I WANTED TO STAY INSIDE THE STATION...

Erm... I wonder what Bae-ho and Gwang-do are doing back at the station right now?

THIRTY-ONE!
THIRTY-TWO!
UH... I'M GETTING CONFUSED
GET IT WRONG AGAIN, AND IT'LL BE SO FOR ME, CRAP..
GUESS YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT DOWN YET, GWANG-DO?
NO. 5 PARK GWANG-DO! N-NO, SIR! I CAN DO IT, SIR! I WILL DO IT, SIR!!
HIT THE GROUND, NOW

Erm... HEY, HAK-MUN, DO YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING WE LEARNED YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE?
WELL .. NOT EVERYTHING, BUT SORT OF.

HOW ABOUT YOU, YEON-SEONG?

Ryu Yeon-seong!

Er, yeah.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR SOME SERIOUS RAIN.
Huh?
SO I'M SAYING..
I WANNA SLEEP...

THIS ONE'S A WEIRDO

The seniors take Yeon-seong and the others up to the second floor of the White Cloud Lodge. Furnished with wooden beds, the second floor of the lodge provides climbers with cheap accommodations.

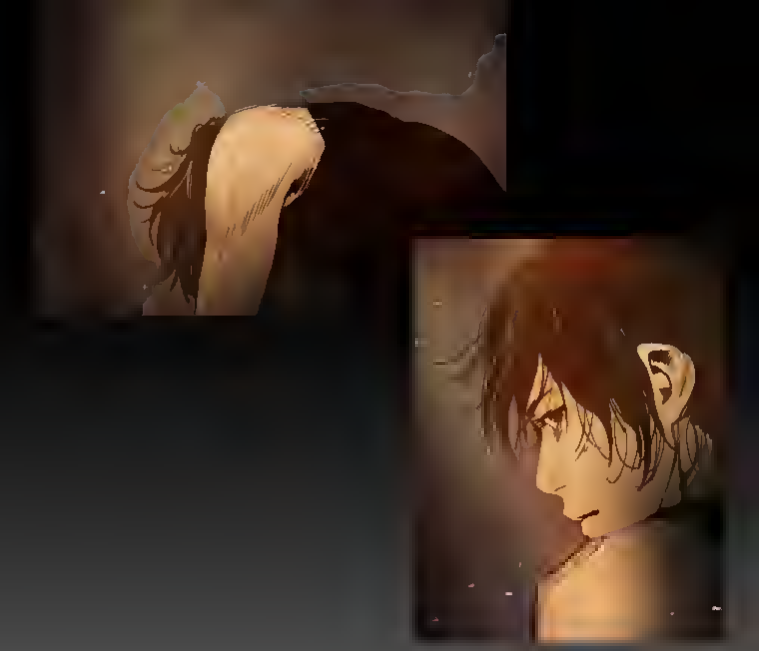
MAN... THIS IS JUST GREAT. WE DON'T HAVE A DAY TO WASTE, AND NOW...
경찰 산
구 조
YOU GUYS CAN LIE DOWN AND REST. BUT KEEP YOUR EARS GLUED TO THE RADIO!
RYU YEON-SEONG, THE RESCUE'S RADIO CODES. NOW!

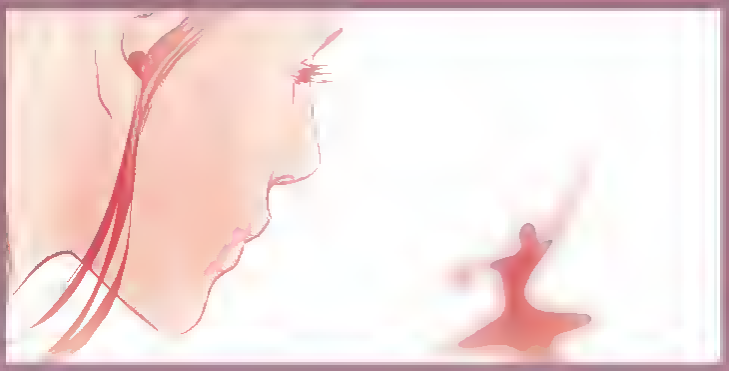
NO. 1 RYU YEON-SEONG!
THE COMMANDER IS WHITE CLOUD LEADER, THE STATION IS WHITE CLOUD ONE...
...AND THE MEMBERS ON PATROL ARE WHITE CLOUD TWO AND THREE, SIR!

Good, good. Don't you ever forget that.
And keep your ears open for the radio at all times!

The pitter-patter of raindrops hitting the roof…
mingled with the occasional transmissions emitted
by the radio, creates a relaxing, harmonious melody.

…Heavy eyelids start to droop…





WAKE UP, YOU IDIOTS!!!
GET UP RIGHT NOW!!

GOD, YOU HOPELESS IDIOTS! DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO KEEP LISTENING TO THE RADIO?
AND NOT A *SINGLE* ONE OF YOU WOKE UP?!
...!!!

WE'VE GOT AN ACCIDENT! HURRY UP AND FOLLOW ME!!!

Wuaah--!
WHERE ARE OUR BACKPACKS?
THE SENIORS TOOK THEM...!!!

SHH HH HH
SPLASH
SPLASH

SPLSH

Sergeant Lee! Did the report mention the exact location of the accident?!

Under the Byeongpung-am Rock! I don't know where exactly it is, so we'll have to call out when we get there!

Let's take the shortcut! Who's behind me?!

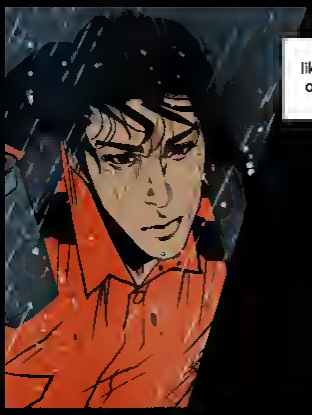
No. 1 Ryu Yeon-seong!!!

From here on out, we'll be leaving the hiking trail, so follow me carefully.

Don't slip and fall!

Yes, sir! Understood, sir!

SHHHHHH
UGH! IT STINGS!
I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN BECAUSE OF THE RAIN...!



Slivers of rain strike their eyes like spikes, limiting their vision. And on a mountain trail, it's impossible to tell where one is going.

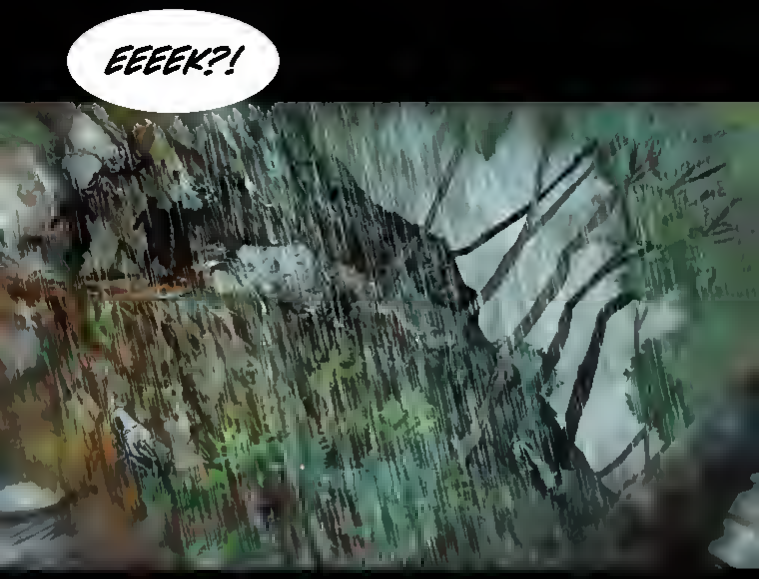
Running on a trail where one cannot predict what terrain lies ahead requires immense concentration.

Merely following the senior members running in front of them, the recruits fly down the muddy trail and over slippery rocks at full speed.

Rain water dribbles into their mouths, but fails to quench their burning throats.

Their hearts flutter wildly, as if refusing ta beat any further!

Huff... Huff...
TOO FAST...!!!
WHAT IF SOMEONE SLIPS WHILE RUNNING AT THIS PACE...?!



One false step and you could tumble meters and meters below... Shouldn't a Rescue Unit be more composed? It's not like war's broken out!

But Yeon-seong couldn't afford to even entertain such thoughts

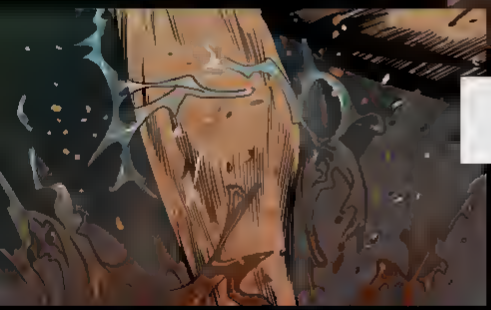
Unlike the other recruits, who are unemcumbered...

_Yeon-seong is running with a backpack on

The backpack contains a 45m long coil of rope, personal harnesses (safety belts), rock shoes...
A piggyback sling, a medicine bag, flares, and a canteen
A total weight of 15 kg!
And as it absorbs more and more rain water, the backpack begins to press down more heavily on his shoulders

His shorts soaked with rain and sweat, obstruct his movements and add to the weight of the backpack
That burden...
Further constricts his lungs, which aren't yet accustomed to the mountain and are ready to burst

His disused leg muscles, now forced to work...



...Begin to cramp in his stiffening thighs and calves.

Because of that single backpack.

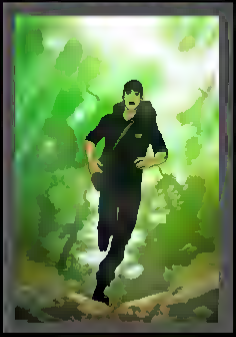
I musn't lose sight of Ju-han sunbae!

I...
Absolutely musn't fall!!!

To be continued...

PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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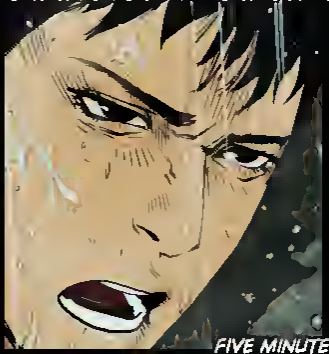
Hiiii
RIGHT, WE'RE NOW BELOW BYEONGPUNG-AM ROCK
Hiiii

Shhhhh—The torrential rain seemed to have abated somewhat.

"Where are the accident victims? Ju-han, let's try calling out to them!"

"Hellooo--?!" "Anybody there--?!"

HOW MANY MINUTES... :Huff:... :Huff:...
DID IT TAKE US TO COME THIS FAR? :Huff:...



FIVE MINUTES...?
SIX MINUTES...?

THOSE SENIORS... :Huff:... :Huff:...
ARE THEY SUPERHUMAN...? :Huff:... :Huff:...

Even as they gasped for breath, the seniors continued to call out.

"What're you doing? You guys call out too! We've got to find them as quickly as possible!!!"

HELLO--?!!
JUST WHERE THE HELL ARE THESE PEOPLE? THE PERSON WHO REPORTED IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE WAITING FOR US...!
ANYBODY THERE--?!!
THIS RAIN IS MUFFLING OUR SHOUTS!

The seniors, who had always seemed in control, looked flustered and panicky. Like a... mother dog that has lost her pups.

"It doesn't matter what you went through to get there, if you can't find the people who need help!!!"

PEAK

art Im Gang-hyeok
atory Hong Seong-su

Anybody there--?!!

Whoa... Haha, YOU SURE CAN SHOUT, YEON-SEONG!
Haha!
Ha. . THAT... WAS SCARY—.

HERE--!
OVER HERE--!
SHE'S DOWN THERE AT THE BACK!
HURRY...! PLEASE HURRY...!!!
IN THERE! SHE'S IN THERE! Sob... Sob...
WHAT DO WE DO...? WHAT DO WE DO...? Sob...

:Huff:... :Huff:...
WE'RE FINALLY HERE... Haa...

W-WHAT?!

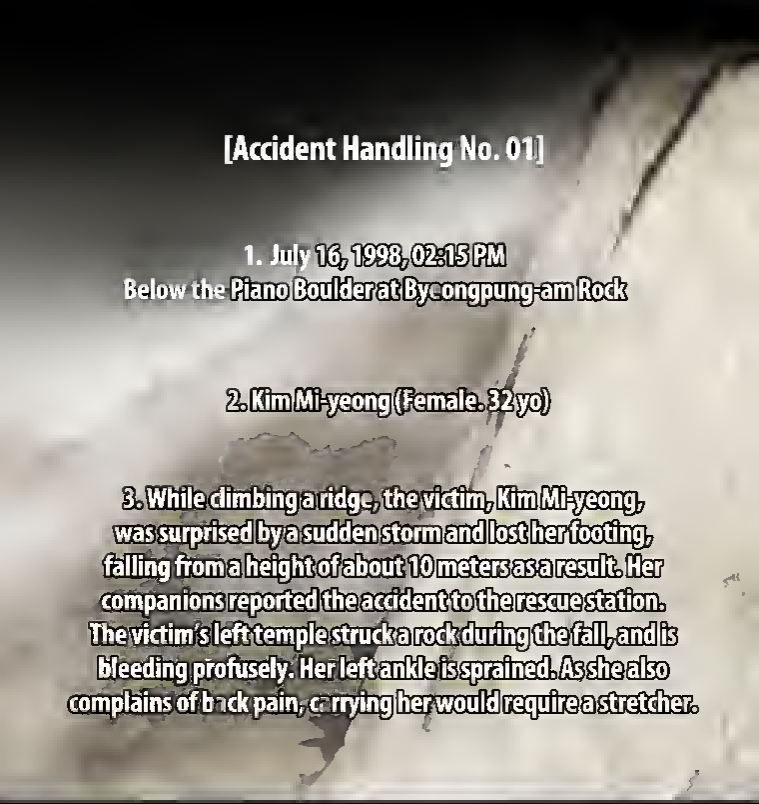
YOU BLOODY IDIOT! YOU'RE A RESCUE MEMBER, YET YOU'D COLLAPSE IN FRONT OF PEOPLE IN DISTRESS?!
AND YOU'RE THE ALPHA TO BOOT!

Ju-han, along with Myeong-jun, then calmed the victims, and hurried inside the tent.

WHITE CLOUD LEADER, THIS IS WHITE CLOUD TWO/ THE ACCIDENT VICTIM IS A WOMAN IN HER EARLY 30S. WE NEED A STRETCHER/
WE'RE BELOW BYEONGPUNG-AM ROCK...
RYU YEON-SEONG/ COME INSIDE/
NO. 1 RYU YEON-SEONG/

PLEASE CONTINUE MASSAGING HER GENTLY.
Sob
Sob

Mmm...
Aaah...
WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER? THIS LADY...


[Accident Handling No. 01]
1. July 16, 1998, 02:15 PM
Below the Piano Boulder at Byeongpung-am Rock
2. Kim Mi-yeong (Female. 32 yo)
3. While climbing a ridge, the victim, Kim Mi-yeong, was surprised by a sudden storm and lost her footing, falling from a height of about 10 meters as a result. Her companions reported the accident to the rescue station. The victim's left temple struck a rock during the fall, and is bleeding profusely. Her left ankle is sprained. As she also complains of back pain, carrying her would require a stretcher.

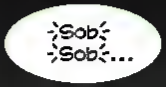
Yeon-seong, come here and
staunch the bleeding from the wound.
Don't press down too hard. Just push gently,
like you're covering it...

SO MUCH BLOOD!!!
BA-DUMP
Sob... MI-YEONG, PLEASE WAKE UP...!
BA-DUMP
WILL THIS LADY... MAKE IT...?
MI-YEONG... Sob... Sob...
BA-DUMP

LUCKILY, SHE AVOIDED FRACTURING HER SKULL.
HEAR HER MOANING? IT MEANS SHE'S STILL CONSCIOUS.
Huu... IT'S STUFFY IN HERE... SO HOT...

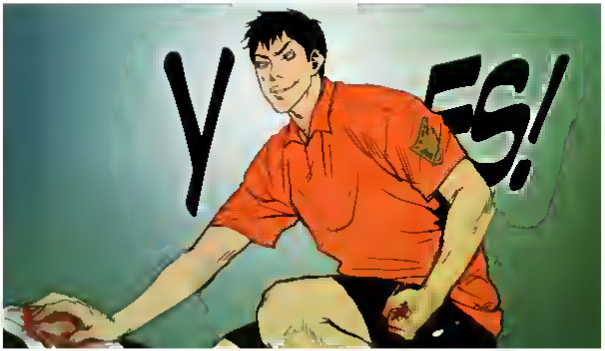
NO... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MI-YEONG...?
PLEASE SAVE HER... PLEASE... Wuaah...

PLEASE STOP CRYING, BOTH OF YOU IT'S ALRIGHT.


Sob Sob...

Wuu... MI-YEONG...
NO... MI-YEONG...
Sob...
WUUAAH...
Sob...
Sob...
Sob...
Waah...
Sob...
MI-YEONG... PLEASE
WAKE UP...
Sob...
WAAH...
Sob...
Sob...
Boohoo...
DON'T DIE...
Sob...Sob...
Sob...

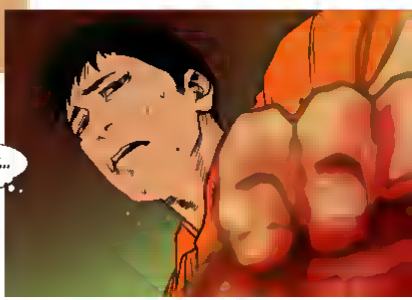
WHO SAYS ANYONE'S DYING?!
BOTH OF YOU, GET OUT RIGHT NOW!!!
HAK-MUN, GI-JUNG! ESCORT THESE LADIES OUT!
Eek?! CAN WE DO THIS? TO PEOPLE IN DISTRESS?



"Finally... Aah... God, what a relief..."

YOUR FRIEND HASN'T HURT HER EARS. SHE CAN HEAR EVERYTHING YOU SAY.
BOTH OF YOU CRYING LIKE THAT WOULD UPSET YOUR FRIEND EVEN MORE.
TOO TRUE!
YEAH. SHE MIGHT THINK THAT SHE'S REALLY GOING TO DIE
Ah... W-WE'RE SORRY... :Sob:...

HER BLEEDING SHOULD HAVE MOSTLY STOPPED BY NOW. REMOVE THE TOWEL.
OKAY.


UGH...

"When firm skin is struck by a sharp rock, a cross or star-shaped wound is formed."

Ju-han explained as he cleaned the blood from the victim's face and around the wound with peroxide.

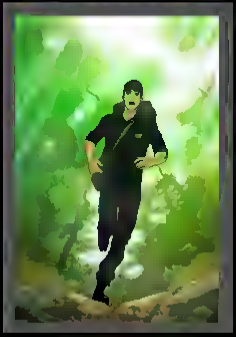
For the first time, words came
out of the victim's mouth instead of moans.

Ju-han then pressed the tourniquet against the wound, and secured it by wrapping it with elastic bandages. It was amazing to see how deftly and clinically he handled the bandages.

To be continued...

PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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Proofreader: Anima
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Typesetter: Anima
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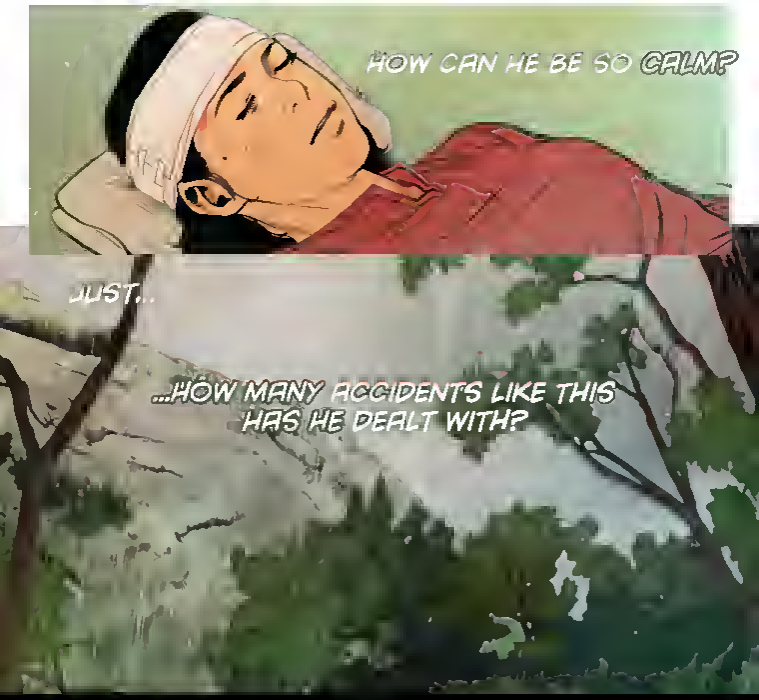
I-IT HURTS... Aaah...

THIS'LL STING. PLEASE BEAR WITH IT FOR A MOMENT.

Ju-han then pressed the tourniquet against the wound, and secured it by wrapping it with elastic bandages. It was amazing to see how deftly and clinically he handled the bandages.



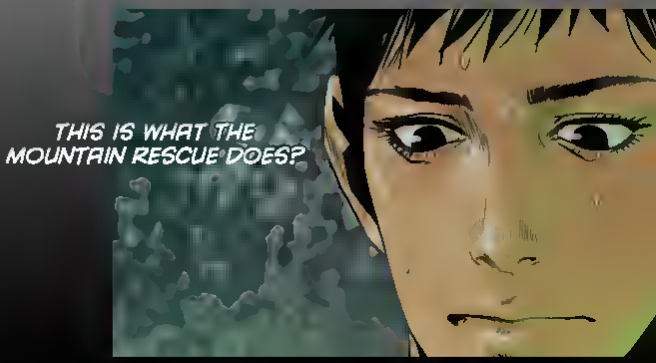
A while later, Myeong-jin decided that the two women had calmed down sufficiently, and allowed them back inside the tent.

MI-YEONG... ARE YOU OKAY...?
IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT..?
Mmm... Mmm...

Heh... SHE'S MADE IT, SHE'S MADE IT!

Ahh... I need some fresh air...

Before he'd even finished the thought, Ju-han ordered him to go meet the commander and member who were coming up from the station with a stretcher.



But I... don't really want to do stuff like this...

It's tough dealing with accident victims and their friends...

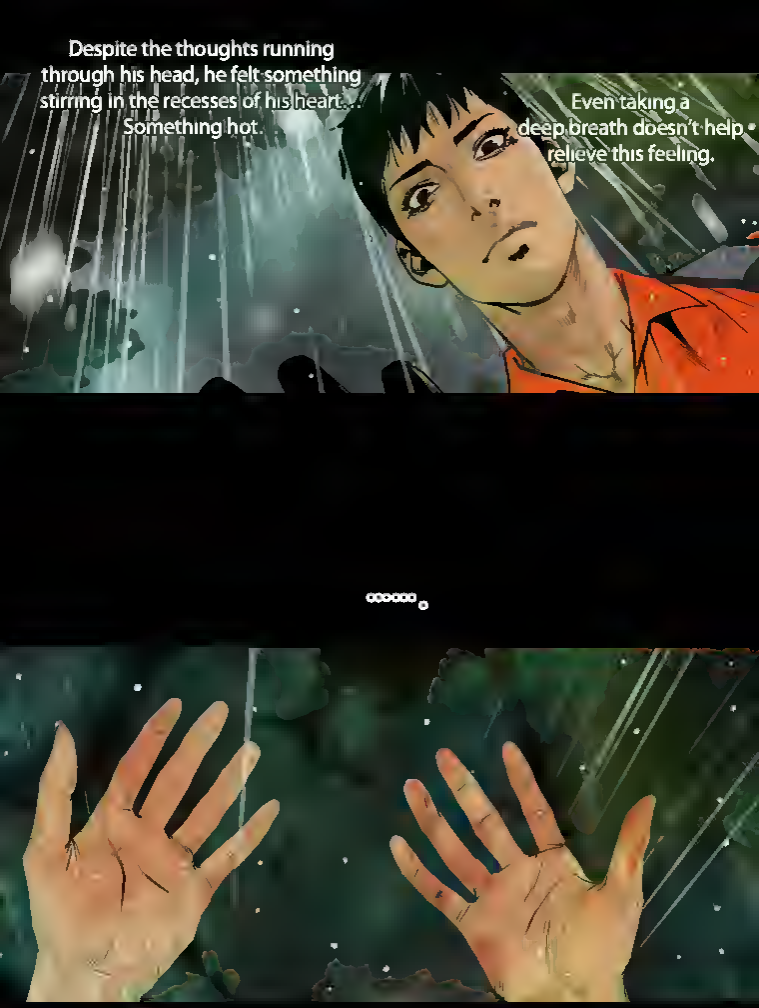
You don't have to be injured to be a victim, I guess.

You bloody idiot! You're a rescue member, yet you'd collapse in front of the people in distress?! And you're the Alpha to boot!

You're asking too much, to expect someone who's only been on the mountain for three days to perform as well as you!

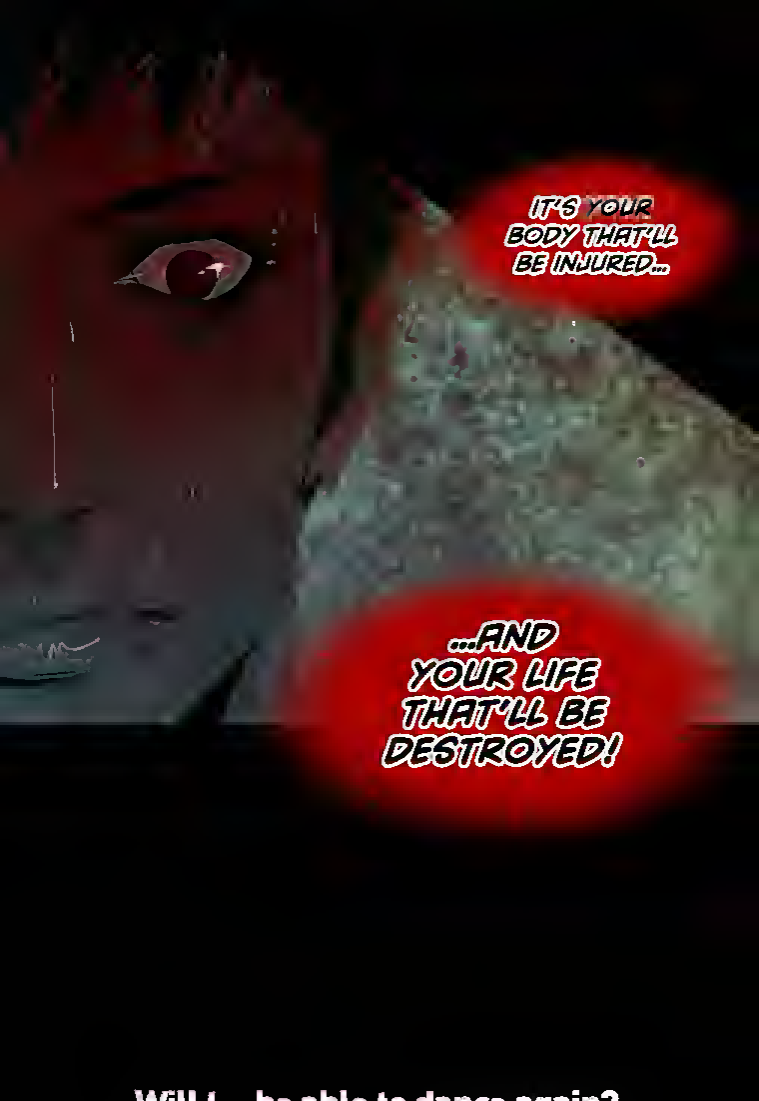
Do you think I'm some superhuman?

You even decided on the position of Alpha based on our serial numbers!


Despite the thoughts running through his head, he felt something stirring in the recesses of his heart...
Something hot.
Even taking a deep breath doesn't help relieve this feeling.
ooooo。

The seniors will be gone in a month's time.

IT'LL JUST BE THE FIVE OF US ON THIS MOUNTAIN!!!
...Will I really be able to handle accidents like this?



Will I... be able to dance again?

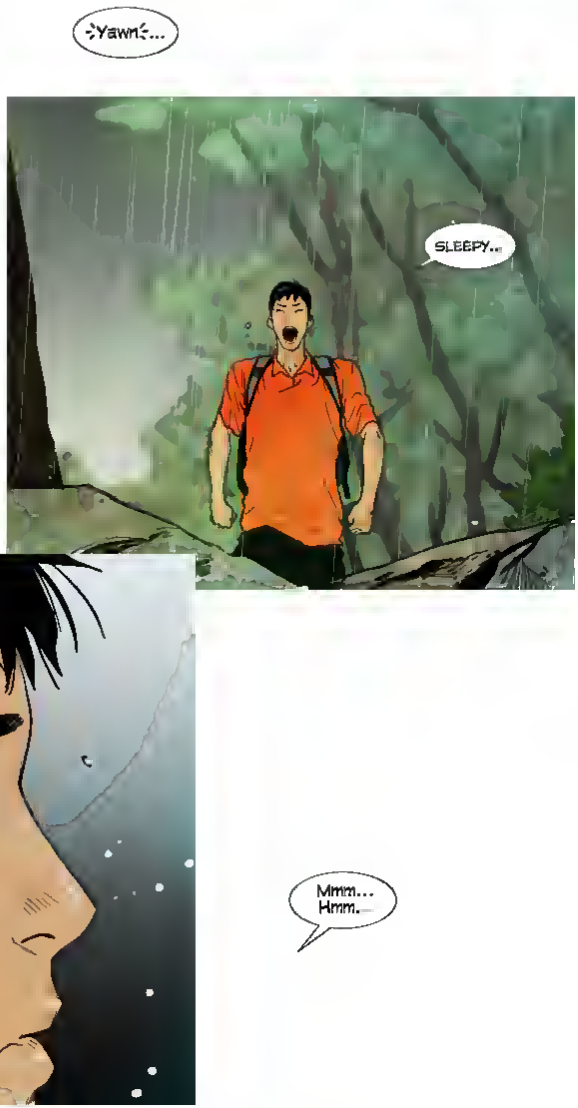
Rock. 03
Rock Paper
Scissors
End.

Rock. 04
The Mark of the
First Time

HEY .. DON'T YOU THINK JU-HAN SUNBAE HAS GOT IT IN FOR YEON-SEONG?
HE LEAVES US ALONE, BUT KEEPS ORDERING YEON-SEONG AROUND, AND TELLS HIM OFF, RIGHT?

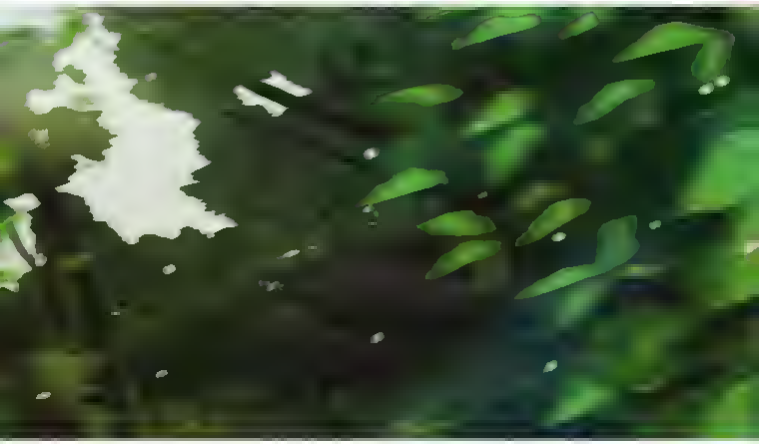
I SUPPOSE HE HAS HIS REASONS.. IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW YOU CARRY YOURSELF.. AND THAT GUY'S A BIT WEIRD/

EH? WHY'S HE WEIRD? I THINK HE'S ALRIGHT.
AND HE'S *CUTE*, TOO...
.....


:Yawn:...
SLEEPY...
Mmm...
Hmm...

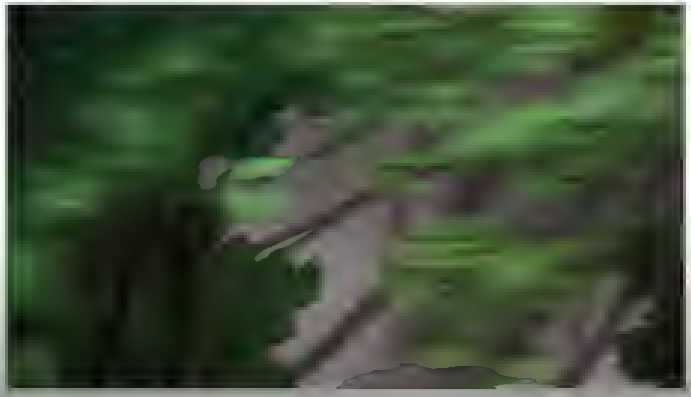
Remember the spot where we first called out for the accident victims? Go a bit farther up from there and wait by the fork. Cdr. Cheon and Sgt. Jeong Ji-tae will come up with a stretcher.

He doubled back hurriedly, retracing his steps.
...Retracing? ...When?



No, no!

Don't do this to me... Please...



Since I'm also to blame for not checking what was happening behind me...

...I'll let it slide this time.

JUST
WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS TO
ME...?!

BZZZT- WHITE CLOUD THREE THIS IS WHITE CLOUD TWO!

T-THIS IS WHITE CLOUD THREE!

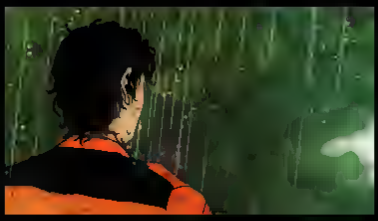
HAVE YOU REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT?

I'M INSIDE THE TENT

WHAT? TENT?

Erm... HERE!

YEON-SEONG LEFT THE RADIO IN THE TENT, AND...



:Huff:
WHITE CLOUD TWO, WHAT'S YOUR EXACT LOCATION AT BYEONGPUNG-AM ROCK?!
:Huff:
AH, FOLLOW THE SHORTCUT STRAIGHT AHEAD AND YOU'LL FIND YEON-SEONG WAITING FOR YOU
:Huff:
Haa
WHERE WAS IT? I HAVE TO GET THERE QUICKLY!
I HAVE TO GET THERE FIRST AND WAIT FOR THEM!
Haa

WAS IT HERE? THE FORK?
HUFF
THE FORK..
HUFF
WHY...

WHY DOES IT ALL LOOK THE SAME...?!

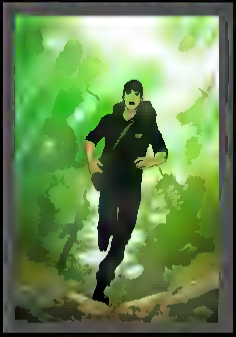
BRRT... NOW THAT MY SWEAT HAS COOLED, I'M FEELING PRETTY COLD...
Y-YEAH...

Because the real rescue work starts now!

To be continued...

PEAK

Art: Im Gang-Hyeok
Story: Hong Seong-Su



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Huh? You guys shivering?

Cold? Feeling cold, eh?
It'll get a whole lot hotter soon so just you wait...

Because the real rescue work starts now!

NO!
I COULDN'T TAKE IT!
…?!
RUSTLE

A-AGAIN?
DON'T TELL ME...
HERE...
I'M OVER
HERE...
Phew... A
MAN'S VOICE... THAT
SCARED ME...

ANYWAY, WHAT A RELIEF! THERE WAS A CLIMBER HERE!
I'LL ASK HIM FOR DIRECTIONS!
Er... Ehem. IS SOMEONE THERE?
HERE. OVER HERE...
!!!
SIR, WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

Ah, yeah... somehow you found me...
...?
Well, I'll ask him for directions anyway.
Er... do you... about the Byeongpung-am rock trail...
Yeah, that's right. I'm the one who reported the Byeongpung-am rock accident.

Er...
COME
AGAIN?!

WHITE CLOUD TWO, JUST WHERE'S RYU YEON-SEONG SUPPOSED TO BE?!
:HUFF:
BZZZT - EH? YOU MEAN YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIM?
:HUFF:
:HUFF:
DID YOU FIND HER? HOW IS SHE? IS SHE ALRIGHT?! DON'T TELL ME SHE'S...

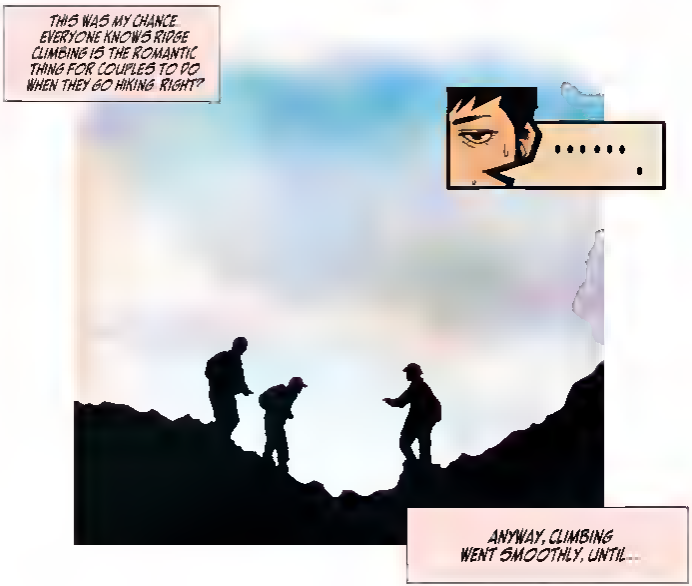
But, er, what happened?

Why're you here...?

Uhm... So it's like this...

AHEM, SHE'S, ER, SOMEONE I'M REALLY INTO... WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS...

YEAH? THEN HOW ABOUT WE GO RIDGE CLIMBING ON MT. BUKHAN THIS WEEKEND?
OH MY...


THIS WAS MY CHANCE. EVERYONE KNOWS RIDGE CLIMBING IS THE ROMANTIC THING FOR COUPLES TO DO WHEN THEY GO HIKING. RIGHT?
.....
ANYWAY, CLIMBING WENT SMOOTHLY, UNTIL...

*SSI IS AN HONORIFIC USED COMMONLY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL SOCIAL STANDING.

**FIGHTING IS A COMMONLY USED WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT, AS WELL AS A CHEER USED BY KOREANS

HUH?

SHH
HH
HH
THE RESCUE UNIT... THE RESCUE UNIT... IS NO. 9!
TRMMBLL
TRMMMBLL
:Beep:
NO SERVICE

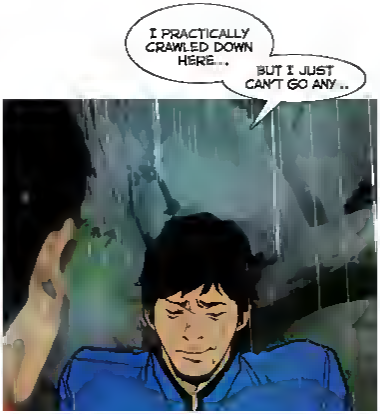
COME ON!
GO THROUGH!
COME ON!!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

Hah

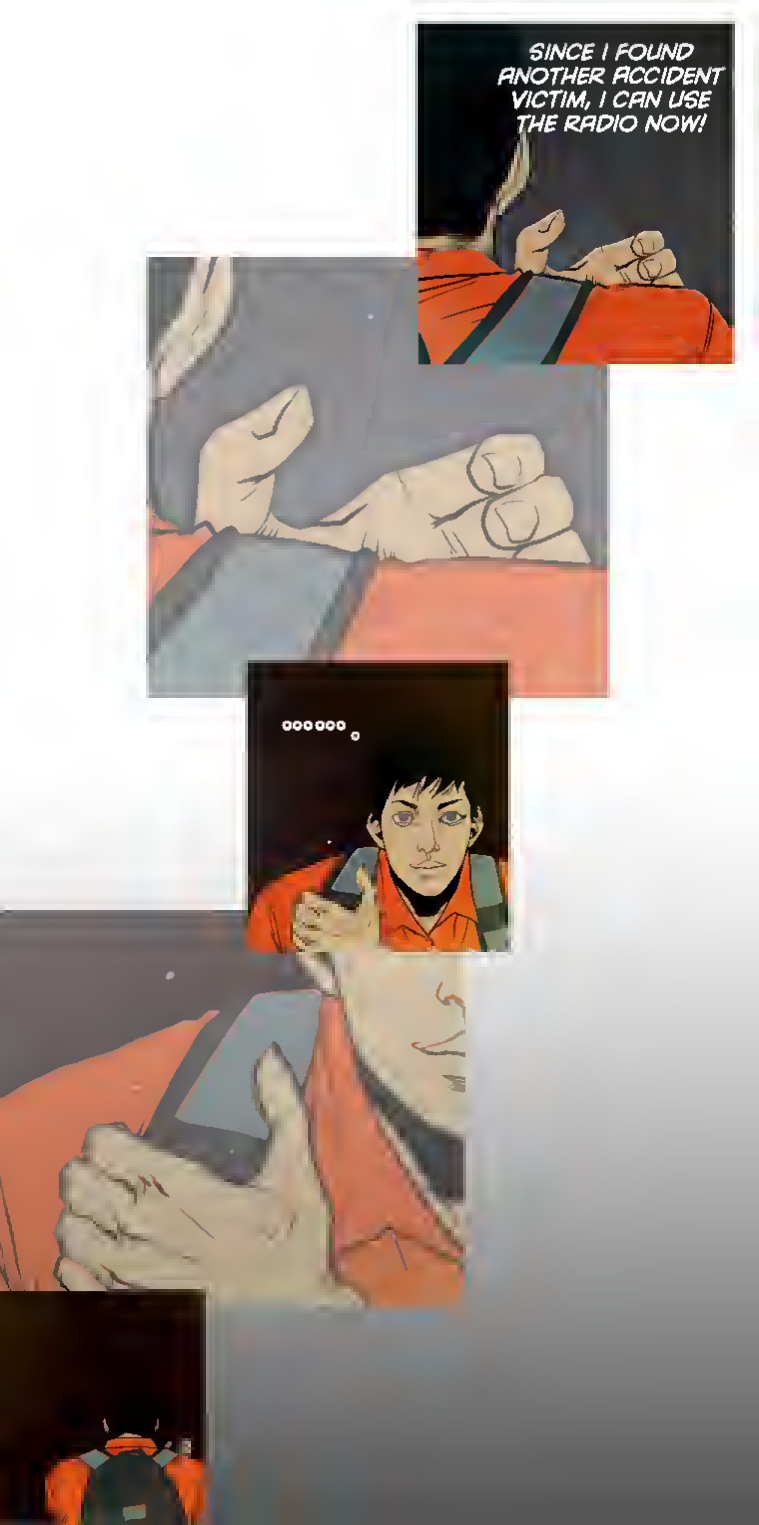
Hah

IS THIS THE RESCUE UNIT? PLEASE COME HERE QUICKLY AND HELP US! WE'RE UNDER BYEONGPUNG-AM ROCK! HURRY!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

I'M SORRY, JEONG-SOOK-SSI!
MI-YEONG-SSI, PLEASE DON'T DIE!
WHAAAAH!!!


I PRACTICALLY CRAWLED DOWN HERE...
BUT I JUST CAN'T GO ANY..

THIS IS MY LUCKY BREAK!
Whew... GUESS THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY OUT!


SINCE I FOUND ANOTHER ACCIDENT VICTIM, I CAN USE THE RADIO NOW!
.....

Overcome with frustration, Yeon-seong questioned him as though he were angry.

Then why didn't you report to the rescue unit?

WHY DO YOU THINK I CLIMBED UP TO THE TOP OF THE RIDGE? YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU? THERE'S NO RECEPTION HERE.
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST SHOUTED! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, JUST LAYING HERE? AND IN THIS WEATHER!

I was too embarrassed...

I BROUGHT HER TO THE MOUNTAIN, WHERE I'M IN MY ELEMENT, SO I COULD IMPRESS HER AND MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN US...
BUT I GOT HER FRIEND HURT INSTEAD...
AND IF I WERE TO ADMIT THAT I'D INJURED MYSELF TOO... I'D REALLY BE A LOSER.
Ah... IT'S ALL OVER NOW...

.....

—You pathetic loser!!!—

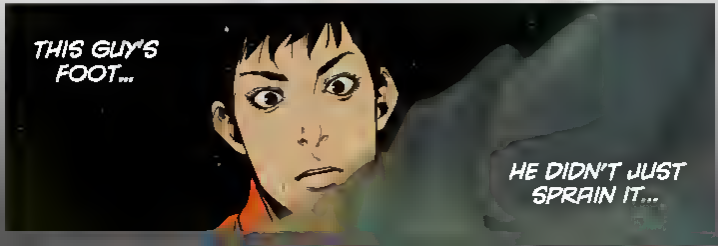
I did try to call out for help after, but as my body temperature dropped, I lost the strength to even shout...

I WAS A FOOL. ALL BECAUSE OF MY STUPID PRIDE .. YOU SEEM TO HAVE GONE THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO FIND ME...
I'M SO VERY SORRY.
Er, NOT REALLY... WELL...
Ahh... AND I-I THINK I... SPRAINED MY ANKLE...

Oh, I'm sorry! I should've noticed it earlier!

His heart sank when the man screamed.
He'd only applied slight pressure... Slowly, carefully, he pulled off the man's socks. Pulling off someone else's socks, soggy with sweat, is never a pleasant experience. And it's even worse when the man's face is scrunched up in a grimace! Beads of sweat formed just from pulling off one of the socks. When Yeon-seong took off the man's shoe, he thought the man had big feet. But it wasn't that his foot was big...

It was the swelling.

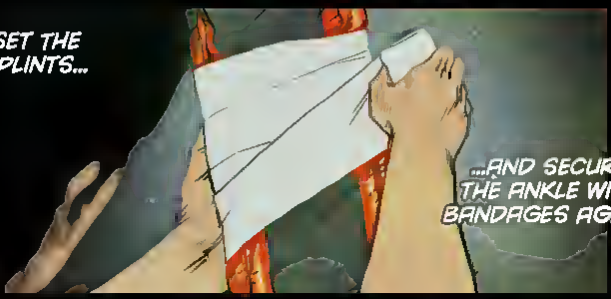


WHAT DO I DO? Ahh...
YES, THE PLASTER! THE PLASTER! FIRST,
I SHOULD SMEAR THE LIQUID PLASTER...

...AND APPLY THE SPRAY PLASTER!

THEN, HOLD THE ANKLE IN PLACE WITH ELASTIC BANDAGES...

SET THE SPLINTS...



...AND SECURE THE ANKLE WITH BANDAGES AGAIN!

The first time he'd ever done real first aid in his life. He stood up, feeling both pride, as if he'd performed a great medical procedure... And doubt about whether he'd done it properly...

THAT'S A RELIEF, AT LEAST. IF I HADN'T LEARNED THIS YESTERDAY... Whew...

SHIT! I LEFT HIM ALONE FOR TOO LONG!

Sir! Please wake up!!!

I HEARD A PERSON CAN DIE IF HE'S HIT BY HYPOTHERMIA WHILE EXHAUSTED...

SIR! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? SIR!

Wuu... I FEEL A BIT COLD... Huu...

THIS GUY'S IN TROUBLE! BOTH HIS FEET AND BODY ARE IN BAD SHAPE! HE SHOULD BE RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL...

AND FOR THAT...

WE SHOULD GET DOWN FIRST, I GUESS.

To be continued...

PEAK

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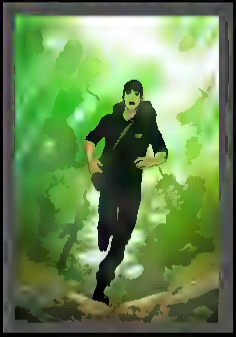

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SIR, HOW DOES IT FEEL...?
!!!

SHIT! I LEFT HIM ALONE FOR TOO LONG!

Sir! Please wake up!!!

I HEARD A PERSON CAN DIE IF HE'S HIT BY HYPOTHERMIA WHILE EXHAUSTED...

SIR! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? SIR!

Wuu... I FEEL A BIT COLD... Huu...

THIS GUY'S IN TROUBLE! BOTH HIS FEET AND BODY ARE IN BAD SHAPE! HE SHOULD BE RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL...

AND FOR THAT...

WE SHOULD GET DOWN FIRST, I GUESS.

Uhm... WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO? AREN'T YOU GOING TO CALL FOR BACK UP?
THEY'RE ALL BUSY RIGHT NOW I'LL CARRY YOU ON MY BACK AND DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN.
I WOULD, BUT I FORGOT THE RADIO!

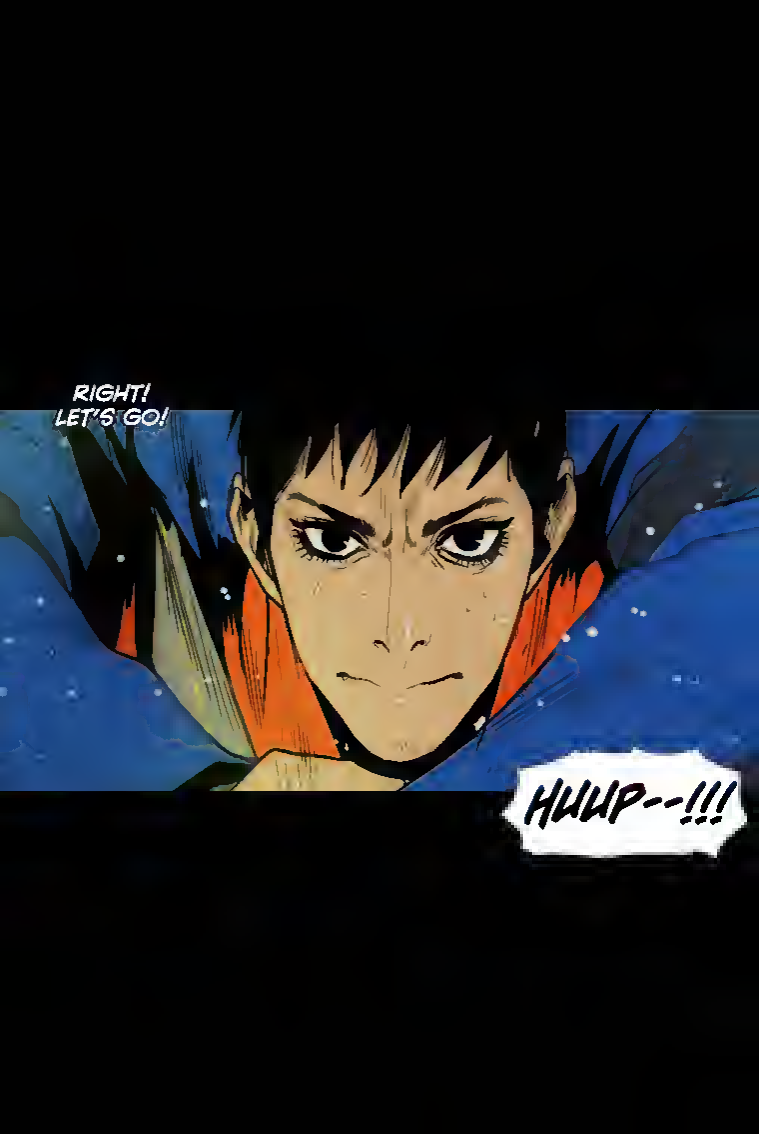
Huh? Descend the mountain?

But I weigh over 70 kg!

Recalling what he'd practiced with his seniors the previous night, Yeon-seong attempted a piggyback sling to carry the victim.

He placed the sling across the victim's back and thighs, and slipped his arms through the loops formed at either end to wear the sling like a backpack. He then ran the two strands of the sling protruding from the knot bundle through the bottom of the loop on the other side, rolled them up, and coiled them back below the knot bundle, and pulled to tighten the sling.

I BETTER WEAR THE BACKPACK AT THE FRONT
Ugh...


RIGHT!
LET'S GO!
HUUP--!!!

EEK-?!
Er... MR RESCUER, WILL YOU REALLY BE ALRIGHT?
I'M FINE! HERE WE GO! Huu...!

Careful, careful... He barely managed to keep his balance, and took a step forward.

'WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D DESCEND THIS MOUNTAIN CARRYING SOMEONE ON MY BACK...'

He'd tried carrying the seniors on his back, but that had only been for practice. He never imagined that he'd really be able to descend the mountain while carrying another person on his back.

Sensations he'd never felt before put pressure on his ankles and knee joints.

The weight of the backpack he wore at the front added to his load and his whole body tensed, from the tips of his toes to his chin

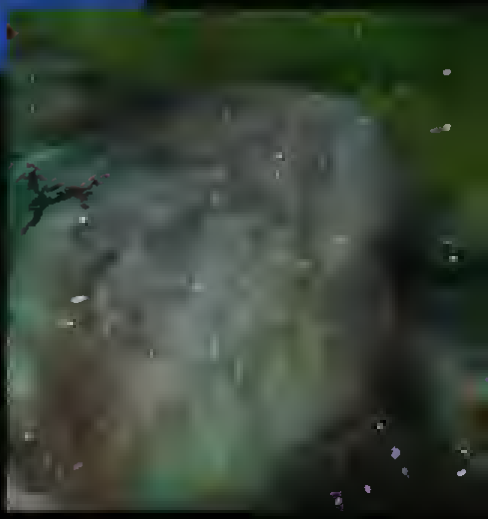
He could barely breathe, let alone make excuses for his ignorance. Rather than opening his mouth to answer, he exhaled deeply and turned around. For a moment, doubt clouded the victim's face.

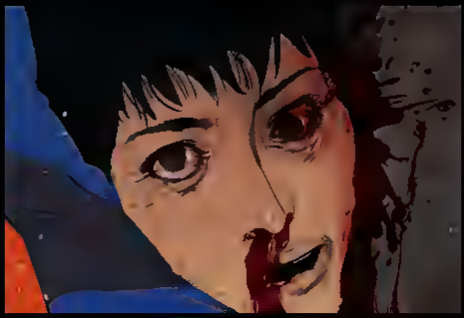
Is he... really a mountain rescue member?
Haa
Haa
THIS...
THIS... IS NO JOKE!!!

Haa
Haa
THESE ROCKS...
ARE BARELY 20 CM
TALL, BUT THEY'RE...
JUST...
JUST...

TOO HIGH!!!
THUMP!
THUD!
ARGH--!

Haa
SHIT...!
SINCE WE'RE TIED TOGETHER,
HE FEELS ANY IMPACT I FEEL!
Haa
Huff
Huff



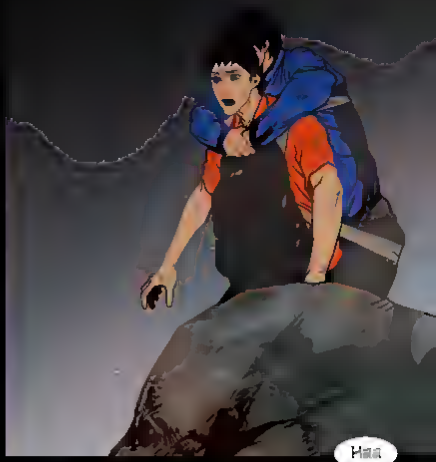


Huff

IF...

IF I STUMBLE AND FALL...!

Huff



Huff

Haa

Haa... Haa... How... How far have we come down...?
Huh? W-Well... Maybe about halfway?

Haa

I'M FINE.
Haa
WELL... I'M A MOUNTAIN RESCUE MEMBER, AFTER ALL.

.....

Uhm, then let me carry the backpack at least!

No, it's alright. We're all for one now.
It's all the same, so don't worry about it.

That's why I want to share the pain, since we're in this together! I've also been climbing these mountains for over three years now! I'm fine, and I'd just feel guilty as hell if I didn't even do this much!

Ah... Haha... If you insist... Here you go...

Right, let's be off again!!!
-Rustle- — Heave ho!

WOBBLE
EH?!

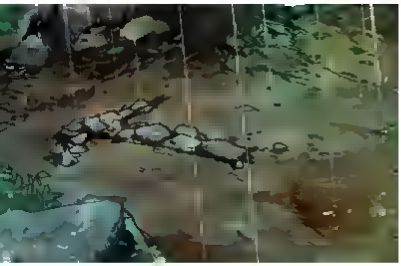
WUAAAAH--!
NO--!!!

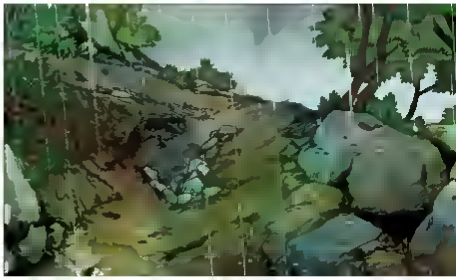
……。

……。

That would've been too much, even for me!

Did you used to be a boy scout?
Let me give you a round of applause...!

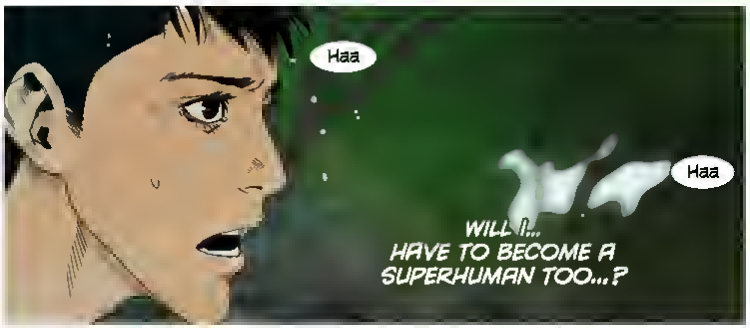




After radioing the commander, Ju-han started the descent with the victim on his back as Yeon-seong watched in amazement and marvelled at his speed.

H-HE'S FAST!!!
And despite his pace, he maintained a smooth, unwavering gait, exuding an aura of stability

This is the mountain rescue?!

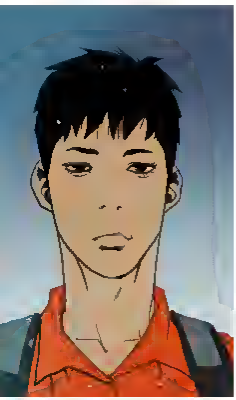


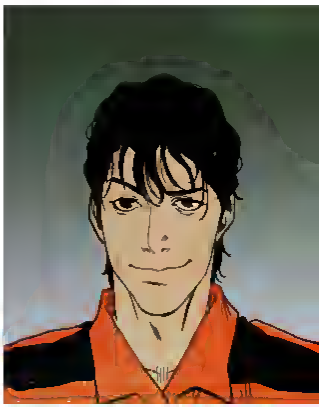
Ju-han propped the victim on a bench and stopped to rest. In Yeon-seong's eyes, Ju-han seemed to have grown even larger than when he first climbed the mountain.

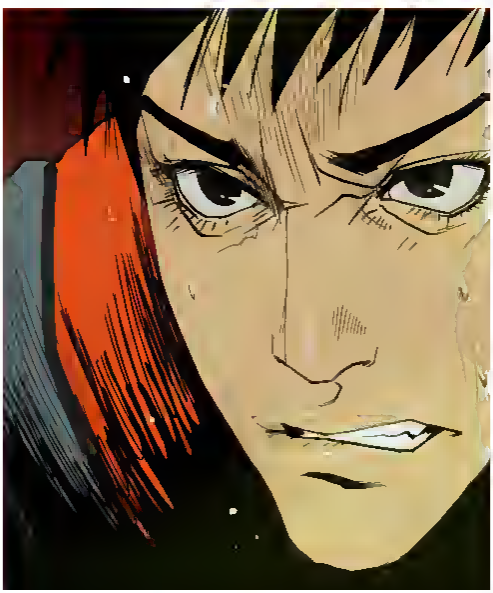
Right then, it's time to rotate!

Come again...?!

Why, still tired? If that's the case, then...







YONG-
NAM-SSI...!

HOW'D YOU END UP LIKE THIS? I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU...!
JEONG-SOOK-SSI... I'M S-SORRY... TO MAKE YOU WORRY SO MUCH... IT'S MY FAULT...

Hee
Hee
경찰
WELL, WELL...

Before the ambulance left, the male accident victim and his girlfriend got off the van hurriedly and thanked them profusely, repeatedly bowing their heads. They wanted to give them money, but Ju-han was adamant in his refusal. Then the couple thanked them half a dozen times more.

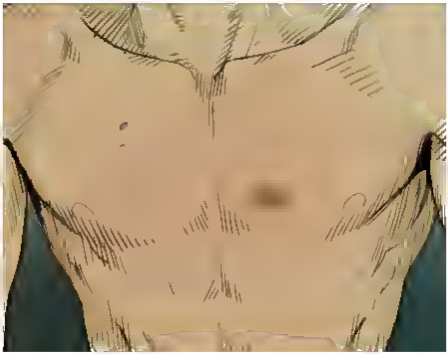
BZZZT - WHITE CLOUD CAPTAIN, THIS IS WHITE CLOUD TWO. WE COMPLETED THE HANDOVER OF THE VICTIMS TO THE 119 SERVICE.

WE JUST CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, AND NOW WE HAVE TO CLIMB BACK UP..
I THINK I MUST'VE LOST AT LEAST 2 KG TODAY...

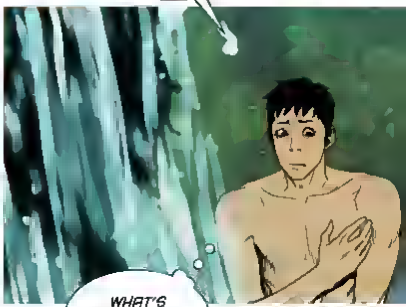
SHH HH HH HH
HEY... COME ON IN ALREADY...!

YES, SIR!
ACK?! ON YOUR CHEST .. IS THAT A HICKEY?

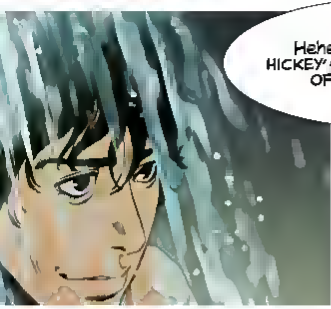
WHAT?

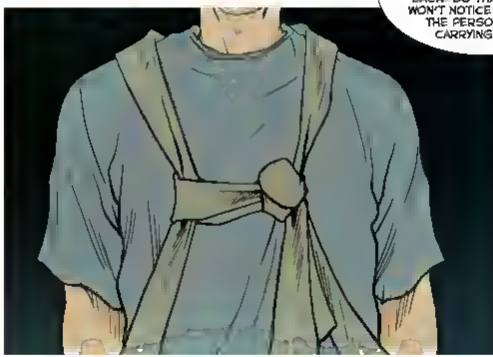


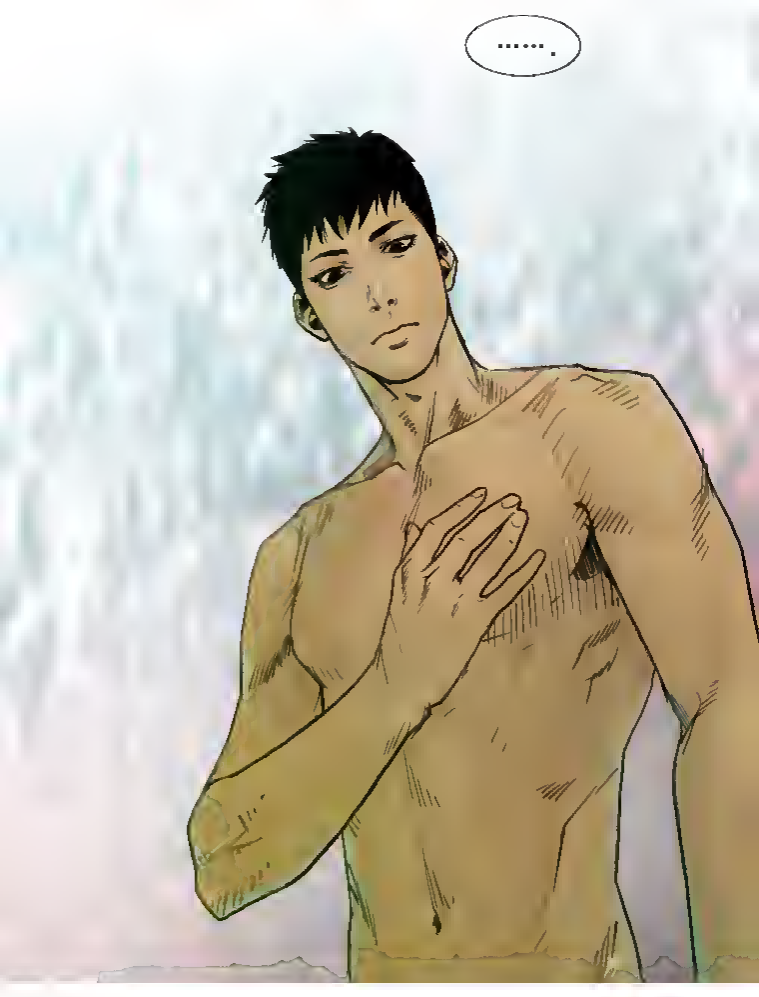
N-NO, IT *ISN'T.*



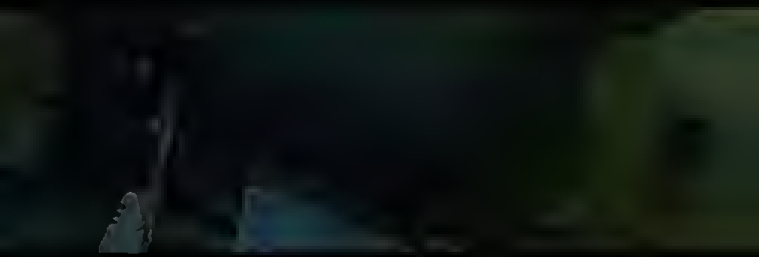
WHAT'S THIS? WHEN DID I GET THIS?


Hehe... THAT'S A 'SLING HICKEY'! WE CALL IT 'THE MARK OF THE FIRST TIME'!


BUT DON'T PAD YOUR CHEST WITH SOMETHING TO AVOID CHAFING WHEN YOU'RE CARRYING SOMEONE ON YOUR BACK. DO THAT, AND YOU WON'T NOTICE THE IMPACT THE PERSON YOU'RE CARRYING FEELS.



"The Mark of the First Time",
or the so-called "Sling Hickey"...



SNORE...
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
SNORE...
ZZZ...
GIVE ME A BREAK...! GOD PLEASE...!
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY...!!!

...Its true name is…
“Fulfillment”.

I stare at the darkness.
A deep, deep darkness.

The deep blue of the abyss, that shies
away from the sun's piercing rays.

Spirals of white, pure fabric caress the curves,
from which the fragrance rises.

I saw the frangrance, yet I can't see it.

I can't see it.

PEAK

Season 1 END

To be continued in season 2